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Sleep Therapy Management

Recession wasn't as bad: StatsCan

ECONOMY In most of the world it's still known as The Great Recession, but in Canada it may go down as The Great Escape.

While the rest of the world reeled from an economic and financial tsunami that threatened to spiral into the worst disaster since the 1930s, good policies and good planning appear to have sheltered Canada from the worst the downturn had to offer. Statistics Canada's official report on the 2008-2009 slump shows it was a most ordinary recession in Canada, in fact, even milder than the two previous economic dips.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Sports pg 23

Sens prepare for Game 2

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Ballet **Cut a rug**

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

Maureya Lebowitz and Reyneris Reyes perform Thursday in the Royal Winnipeg Ballet's Moulin Rouge — The Ballet at the National Arts Centre. The show opened Thursday night and runs through Saturday.

Design dissent

Park plans raising Glebe hackles

TIM WIECLAWSKI
tim.wieclawski@metronews.ca

Detailed plans for the Lansdowne Park redevelopment circulating among retailers have Glebe businesses questioning the validity of the city's design process, but proponents say those plans are part of an evolving proposal.

Catherine Lindquist, executive director of the Glebe Business Improvement Area, said they were shocked and outraged to discover the detailed plans circulating that show an increase of residential and commercial areas, including a two-storey Whole Foods store, which fronts onto Bank Street.

"It's like it's a done deal. It's like it's a fait accompli," said Lindquist.

"We're following the due process and providing our input. To see these drawings being circulated to the real estate industry suggests to us the OSEG thinks the Lansdowne Mall is a done deal."

However, Kevin McCrann, a representative from the Ottawa Sports and Entertainment Group, said the plans the Glebe BIA presented are already a number of iterations old.

"Those are old drawings. I would say they are almost irrelevant to what we are doing today," said McCrann. "The 63,000-square-foot Whole Foods is not an accurate number whatsoever. It's premature for us or them to comment on what the ultimate design will be."

TIM WIECLAWSKI/METRO OTTAWA

Glebe Business Improvement Area executive director Catherine Lindquist points to a detailed rendering of the Lansdowne Park redevelopment plan.

Guergis liked to party, sources claim

POLITICS Ex-cabinet minister Helena Guergis may have nurtured the image of a straightlaced cabinet minister on Parliament Hill, but people who knew her in younger days paint a picture of a regular club-goer often seen on the arm of a hometown playboy.

Sources say Guergis was in a serious relationship in the late '90s with a well-known playboy in Barrie, Ont., a promoter who was a fixture in the local party scene and later owned a popular local strip club.

A source who knew both Shane Alkerton and Guergis well said their love affair was a tumultuous "soap opera" that spanned many years. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Local

Hop down to OHS to adopt a bunny

The Ottawa Humane Society is hopping with rabbits. There are currently 15 bunnies, including the one pictured at left, available for adoption. The number of rabbits surged in the past few days, after seven bunnies were found abandoned in a downtown park and brought to the OHS, the shelter said Thursday. Staff are now scrambling to find space for all the rabbits and move them out of the cramped facility and into new and loving homes. METRO OTTAWA

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City seeks diversity in fire recruits

CAMPAIGN The City of Ottawa's 2010 firefighter recruitment campaign is underway. You Can Be a Firefighter is designed to attract a diverse range of applicants — including women and people from different ethnic groups.

"We are committed to recruiting dynamic, motivated individuals who also possess a strong sense of community," said Ottawa Fire Services Chief John deHooge. "It's the diversity of our residents that makes this city so dynamic. We want to better reflect the people of our community."

The city will be accepting applications from May 3-31.

MIRANDA MINASSIAN/ FOR METRO OTTAWA

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Michaëlle Jean laughs off a future in politics after her term ends at **metronews.ca/canada**

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MIRANDA MINASSIAN/FOR METRO OTTAWA

Melody Cebula shows off her eco-friendly fashion line at this year's Spring Craft Show, held at Lansdowne Park through Sunday.

Unique creations on offer at Spring Craft Sale

LANSDOWNE What do you get when you mix fashion and recycling with Canadian know-how?

Precocious Environmental Couture Inc., an eco-chic clothing line for women, made entirely from vintage fabrics. Originally from Toronto, designer Melody Cebula's found the capital city crowd receptive to her one-of-a-kind collections.

"The Ottawa market has been good to me," said Cebula. "People here respond to my ecologically friendly but fashionable clothes."

Cebula's creations are just one of the many unique products offered at the 2010 Spring Craft Sale, held at Lansdowne Park through Sunday.

The event has drawn 180 artists, crafters and designers from all over Canada to showcase their eclectic products to Ottawans.

Shoppers can find a range of items including home décor pieces, paintings, jewelry and bags, all meticulously crafted and one-of-a-kind.

For party planners, the gourmet food section offers a wide range of homemade dips, jams, chutneys and spreads. Offering up tastes of their creations, food vendors are prepared to delight the free sampler in anyone.

For men or Father's Day shoppers, Artech Glass-blowing Studios offers a range of distinctive beer glasses recreated from original bottles.

"This event is for anyone looking for well-made gifts outside the box," said shopper Breanne Whitmell. "It is a real bonus that everything is homemade."

MIRANDA MINASSIAN/ FOR METRO OTTAWA

$15M for museums

4 facilities in city to share funding from feds

TRACEY TONG
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Four national museums in Ottawa will be sharing $15 million in additional funding.

"This is funding for their operations, and will go a long way to ensure these national museums will continue to be a source of incredible pride for all Canadians," said Heritage Minister James Moore, who, along with Transport Minister and Ottawa West-Nepean MPP John Baird, made the announcement yesterday.

The Canadian Museum of Civilization, which has more than 3.75 million artifacts, will receive $6.3 million. The National Gallery of Canada will receive $2 million while the Canadian Museum of Nature will receive $3 million and the Canada Science and Technology Museum Corporation, $3.7 million.

"This $15 million in additional funding will go a very long way to ensuring that these great national institutions will be a source of pride for all Canadians for the years to come," said Moore.

Joanne Di Cosimo, CEO of the Canadian Museum of Nature, said, "This additional funding is going to help us implement some elements of the strategic plan for the institution that we could not otherwise put forward because of the increased operating cost of our two facilities, and the need we've had to divert program funds to meet those costs."

"The cost of doing business in museums has spiked," said NGC director Marc Mayer. "We're an institution that serves an entire country. It's a large mandate, and this is going to help us improve our services to Canadians directly."

Last year, nearly three million people from across Canada and around the world visited Canada's four oldest national museums, boosting the tourism industry in the National Capital Region, Baird said.

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

Denise Amyot, president and CEO of the Canadian Science and Technology Museum, speaks at the announcement of $15 million for four national museums in Ottawa Thursday as Transport Minister John Baird, left, and Heritage Minister James Moore look on.

News in brief

GREEN BINS Ottawa residents have helped to divert almost 5,000 tonnes of organic material — or 500 garbage truck loads — from area landfills by using their Green Bins from January to March. The city expects the tonnage to increase in the coming months, as the first three months of the year are historically a low-diversion period, officials said.

FESTIVAL PASS City residents can enter to win an all-festival pass valued at over $5,000 to attend all of Ottawa's participating major festivals, fairs and events from OttawaFestivals.ca. The contest closes April 25.

CARLETON Carleton University is expanding its orientation lineup for new students this fall. New elements include a cultural evening, a morning of student success initiatives, a play on surviving university, keynote speakers, workshops on campus engagement and volunteering, and information on academic integrity.

VOLLEYBALL COURTS The Ottawa Sport and Social Club is building four premier beach volleyball courts in central Ottawa. The courts will be located in Old Ottawa South behind Brewer Park.

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

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We look forward to meeting you on Monday April 19th 2010 at the Open House. Don't forget to bring a copy of your resume and two business references.

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Algonquin tops on college survey
Algonquin College was ranked the best large college in Ontario in student satisfaction, graduate satisfaction and graduate employment, a survey stated. METRO OTTAWA

IBM, uOttawa team up for new centre

More than 1,200 Exabytes of digital information will be created this year and business managers capable of making the most of that data will find themselves increasingly in demand.

One Exabyte is the digital equivalent of a trillion novels.

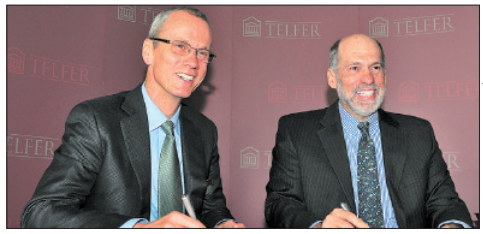
"It's unbelievable how much data is being created," said Rob Ash, the general manager of business analytics for IBM at the University of Ottawa Thursday.

"The people that work for us, the people that come into our organizations, really need to be equipped to use this data."

Making the most of the flood of data available to an organization will be the focus of study at a new analytics research centre created as a partnership between IBM and the Telfer School of Management at uOttawa.

As part of the five-year partnership, IBM is investing more than $2 million in research and development, software, services, consulting and support staff. It will also supply $1.8 million worth of hardware and software.

TIM WIECLAWSKI/ METRO OTTAWA



TIM WIECLAWSKI/METRO OTTAWA

IBM general manager of business analytics Rob Ash, left, sits next to Mike Kelly, the dean of the Telfer School of Business, at the University of Ottawa. On Thursday, the two announced the creation of a new analytics research centre.

News in brief

ELECTION Marianne Wilkinson has filed for re-election in Kanata North. Wilkinson has represented the area on and off for 40 years, but has only served one term on council since amalgamation. In Somerset Ward, Don Fex has registered to run against Diane Holmes.

CHARGED Police have arrested and charged a second young offender in relation to four break-and-enters in the 100 block of Jessica Private Tuesday. A second 16-year-old male faces charges.

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Seedlings from New Brunswick take trip into space

A few small bits of New Brunswick — some white spruce seedlings from forestry giant J.D. Irving's Sussex tree nursery — are floating in space, having been carried to the International Space Station by the shuttle Discovery last week. Scientists will study the effect of gravity on them. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Bravo, Michaëlle

A new poll suggests more than half of Canadians think departing Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean has done a good or excellent job in office. But the poll also indicates less than half would like to see her term extended. She says she'll be leaving when her term expires in September.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada grieves with Poland: Harper

Mass honours crash victims

"Whenever Poland grieves, Canada grieves."

With these words, Prime Minister Stephen Harper sent a message of condolence to a grieving Poland on Thursday.

Harper told thousands at a mass that the death of Poland's president and 95 others in a plane crash while en route to commemorate a wartime massacre is a "cruel irony."

Polish President Lech Kaczynski, his wife and many high-ranking government and military officials died Saturday when the Tu-154 plane went down Smolensk near Katyn. The delegation was on its way to a commemoration of the Second World War massacre of Polish officers at Katyn by Soviet secret police.

"Few countries in the world have endured so much, so often at the hands of unforgiving fate as has Poland," Harper declared at the mass in Mississauga, Ont. "But fewer still have demonstrated so much resilience." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Obama has big plans for exploring Mars, but will Canada be invited?

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THE CANADIAN PRESS

Few countries have endured so much as Poland, Prime Minister Stephen Harper told a mass.

Torture clues not followed, Afghan inquiry told

DETAINEES Defence headquarters looked into allegations of prisoner abuse in Afghanistan and determined that some names mentioned in a 2007 newspaper story matched those of detainees who went through Canadian custody, an inquiry was told.

But Lt.-Col. Douglas Boot felt the story by itself didn't merit further investigation, the inquiry heard.

The Military Police Complaints Commission is investigating the actions of Canadian military police in the transfer of detainees to Afghan authorities.

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It's Time For a Spring Cleaning!

Spring is finally in the air! It comes as a welcome relief from all those long winter months. For many people, it's a chance to get started on their spring cleaning. That's a great idea, because there's nothing quite like a good spring cleaning.

At our office, we're doing a lot of spring cleaning too! No, we're not talking about dusting, vacuuming and scrubbing. **We're talking about spring cleaning for your teeth, a smart way to help maintain the health of your mouth.**

Regular professional tooth cleaning is important to remove stains, soft plaque, and hard tartar or calculus deposits from your teeth. The primary purpose of these regular cleanings is to prevent (or delay) the progression of periodontal diseases (**chronic bacterial infection that affects the gums and bone supporting your teeth**) which left untreated, can lead to tooth loss.

We've found that too many people wait far too long between dental cleaning visits. For most folks, it's a simple matter of procrastination. The frequency of professional cleanings will depend on the health of your teeth and gums. It's a good idea to actually ask the dentist how often your teeth should be professionally cleaned. On average, healthy children and adults should have their teeth professionally cleaned at least once a year. If you are at risk of periodontal diseases because of age, tobacco use, medical conditions such as diabetes or the rate of accumulation of calculus deposits, **your teeth may need to be cleaned more often.**

Sometimes, it can be dangerous to wait too long though! It's usually much easier and less costly to treat dental disorders in their early stages. Take gum disease for example. In the early stages of gum disease, most patients aren't even aware that their gums are unhealthy and they delay making an appointment. It's only when troubles such as bleeding and/or swelling develop that they see a dentist.

Unfortunately, by then, it's usually more difficult to treat the injured tissue.

The bottom line? If you've put off your dental visits for any reason, why not acknowledge the coming of spring as the right time to do some "dental spring cleaning".

Add a dental visit to this year's spring cleaning list. A professional cleaning can help preserve your oral health and prevent the spread of periodontal disease. Moreover, it will enable us to identify any other areas of your mouth that may need attention. In fact, just think of it as "**good housekeeping**" for your mouth. **With proper dental care, you'll feel healthier, look better and enjoy life to the fullest.**

Yours for better dental health,

Dr. David J. Halpin
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Canada leads by example in G8 aid

New figures show G8 countries are well short of their development-aid commitments — but Canada can change that, aid advocates say.

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development released numbers showing the Group of Eight rich countries are falling $18 billion US short of keeping a promise to double aid to poor countries.

The shortfall is particularly deep for Africa, the OECD says. In 2005, the G8 promised to increase aid to Africa by $25 billion US, but the continent will only receive about $11 billion based on recent commitments.

"All donors need to make the efforts necessary to meet their commitments," said Eckhard Deutscher, chair of the OECD's development assistance committee.

The G8 agreed in 2005 at the Gleneagles summit in Scotland that they would double their official development assistance by 2010, and dedicate a larger proportion of their aid to Africa.

Canada has largely lived up to its promises, and has put $5 billion Cdn toward aid in 2010-2011, said Jessica Fletcher, spokeswoman for International Development Minister Bev Oda.

"We come out looking better than most," agreed Dennis Howlett, national co-ordinator of Make Poverty History, an umbrella group of large non-governmental organizations in Canada.

That's why Canada should use its moral authority, as well as its control of the agenda as host of the next G8 summit, to pressure other countries to pay up, Howlett said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **"(Canada) comes out looking better than most."**
> Dennis Howlett, Make Poverty History

Preference

- The NGOs will also be pressuring the G8 to discuss climate change, but Ottawa has made it clear it would prefer to discuss climate change at the Major Economies Forum, and not at the G8 or G20.

Watchdog expects EI premium hikes

ECONOMY Canada's budget watchdog says employment insurance premiums may have to go up, and by a lot.

The parliamentary budget office estimates that EI premiums paid by workers and employers would have to rise by the maximum allowable limit of 15 cents per $100 of insurable earnings if the fund is return to near balance in five years. That would hike annual contributions per worker by $535 — with about $223 more being paid by the employee.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

SCANDAL Premier Jean Charest is denying claims he has changed the rules for appointing judges to Quebec courts, despite an aide to Quebec's justice minister saying that Charest allows cabinet members to see lists of candidates for judicial appointments before a final decision is made.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Fairness at the Pump' set to curb gas gougers

LEGISLATION Federal Industry Minister Tony Clement has announced legislation aimed at cracking down on gas station operators who overcharge customers.

Clement says government studies have found that six per cent of the time, pumps are not properly calibrated for the advertised price and most of the time — four per cent — it's the operator that benefits.

His Fairness at the Pumps Act will increase checks on the industry and hike the possible fines for violations.

"We expect this will reduce the amount of inaccuracy that is hitting consumers at the pumps," Clement told reporters Thursday.

He said it's up to gas-pump operators to ensure pumps are properly calibrated, and under the proposed legislation, there will be regular checks by trained and certified inspectors.

He said there's been a number of cases over the last few years where gas station owners have been charged where there was "malicious intent."

He said people have the right to know what they're paying for. "I know it's a small percentage of gas station operators but to all those chisellers who might be listening in, we're coming after you," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **"To all those chisellers who may be listening, we're coming after you."**
> Federal Industry Minister Tony Clement

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Minister of Industry Tony Clement picks up a gas pump dispenser before announcing the federal government's proposed Fairness at the Pumps Act at National Energy.

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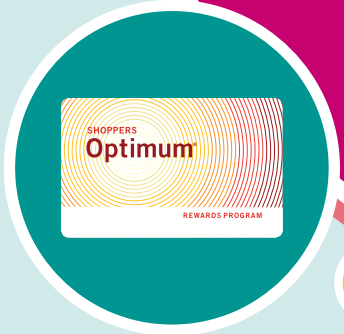

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Newfoundland cops receive award for fashion sense
The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary has been named the best dressed Canadian police agency by the North American Association of Uniform Manufacturers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Apology accepted

Late segregation victim gets belated pardon

The government of Nova Scotia apologized and granted a special pardon Thursday to the late Viola Desmond, a black woman jailed in 1946 for sitting in a whites-only section of a segregated movie theatre.

Premier Darrell Dexter said he is sorry to Desmond's family and all black Nova Scotians for the racism she was subjected to in an incident he called unjust. "This injustice has impacted not just Mrs. Desmond during her life and her family, but other African-Nova Scotians and all Nova Scotians who found and continue to find this event in Nova Scotia's history offensive and intolerable," Dexter said.

"On behalf of the province of Nova Scotia, I am sorry."

Shortly after, Lt.-Gov. Mayann Francis granted a free pardon to Desmond in what the Nova Scotia government said marked the first time in Canada such a form of clemency has been posthumously awarded.

Wanda Robson, Desmond's 83-year-old sister, looked on.

"I am numb with joy," Robson said.

Desmond, then 32, was on her way to Sydney, N.S., on Nov. 8, 1946, to sell imported beauty products when her car broke down.

She went to the Roseland Theatre in New Glasgow, N.S., while it was being repaired. But she was forcibly removed from the theatre by police, jailed and fined.

"The arrest, detainment and conviction of Viola Desmond is an example in our history where the law was used to perpetrate racism and racial segregation," Dexter said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wanda Robson shakes the hand of Nova Scotia Premier Darrell Dexter at a ceremony at the province's legislature in Halifax on Thursday after Nova Scotia apologized and granted a special pardon to Robson's sister, the late Viola Desmond.

Doctors slam costs report

HEALTH CARE Ontario's doctors are slamming a new report that says the province is paying several hundred dollars more per person for physician services than other provinces.

The Ontario Medical Association is accusing the provincial hospital association of producing "maligning reports" and making "false allegations about physicians and others."

The report says Ontario is paying $842 per capita a year for physician services overall, while the average for the other provinces is $675.

Taking into account Ontario's population of 13 million, the report says, those extra per person costs total $2.2 billion.

The Ontario Hospital Association is part of a coalition of health-care providers calling for change in the way doctors in hospitals are paid.

They say putting doctors on province-wide contracts for their hospital work could save the province millions of dollars each year.

Currently the physicians are granted hospital privileges and are then paid by the province for each procedure they perform — the so-called fee-for-service model.

The rate for each of those services is set in negotiations between the doctors and the Ontario government.

While saying she's open to all ideas, Health Minister Deb Matthews would not say whether she believes doctors are overpaid. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pharmacists fight for $750-million subsidy

DRUG STORES Independent pharmacists hit back with an ad in major newspapers today urging consumers to fight the Ontario government's plan to cut at least $750 million from the drug store industry's revenues.

The Independent Pharmacists of Ontario say eliminating so-called professional allowances — a crucial source of funding from generic drug makers — will reduce health services, lead to cuts in pharmacy hours and produce longer wait times.

But it also means independent pharmacies — about half of all drug stores in Ontario — are at risk of closing their doors.

In a bid to cut costs for its provincial drug plan, the government wants to cut the special payments generic companies pay pharmacies to sell their drugs.

Bryan Hastie has owned a small pharmacy in Kitchener-Waterloo for three years, but says he fears he will have to close doors on loyal customers if the Ontario government goes ahead with funding cuts.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Quebec, Alberta share a distrust of feds: Duceppe

The leader of the federal separatist party says Quebec and Alberta have at least one thing in common. Bloc Quebecois leader Gilles Duceppe told reporters in Edmonton that both provinces share a common suspicion of federal intrusion. Duceppe is travelling across Western Canada to meet with reporters and interest groups. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Power plans mean $350 hydro hike: Critics

A $350-a-year hike is in store for the average Ontario household's hydro bill, critics said Thursday as they warned that figure could double once the province's green energy subsidies are rolled out.

An eight per cent raise in domestic electricity costs announced Thursday is the latest in a series of fees that will drive up costs, and that's before the subsidies, the Opposition said.

"It is reaching the point, not all at once but incrementally, just like a leaking faucet, that the sink is going to overflow," said Progressive Conservative energy critic John Yakabuski. "People in this province are seeing increases that are putting them at the point where they can no longer cope with the prices of energy, and we haven't seen them all.

"It's going to get worse."

The hike is the latest in a series that includes an additional $5 per month on hydro bills by 2012 as part of an $8-billion plan to create more renewable energy in Ontario. There is also a new charge to help cover $53 million of the government's conservation and green-energy program.

That fee was quietly introduced three weeks ago, and is expected to add about $4 a year to the average electricity bill.

That's on top of the extra eight per cent consumers will have to pay when the 13 per cent HST takes effect in July.

Energy Minister Brad Duguid said the price of electricity is going up everywhere and argued that some increases are warranted as the province moves toward greener, cleaner power.

It's still too early to say what the total increases will eventually amount to, Duguid said, since there are still too many green energy and nuclear projects being developed to nail down specific numbers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

$7.60 The Ontario Energy Board said the new prices, which amount to about $7.60 a month and take effect May 1, apply to homes that don't have smart meters, devices that record time-of-day usage. Those with the meters will see a more modest increase of 5.8 per cent, or about $5.79 per month.

OC Transpo

New Spring Service

Spring Service Starts Sunday, April 18

New timetables are available for **all peak period** and **express routes** as well as the following routes which have schedule changes: **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 12, 14, 16, 18, 85, 86, 87, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 101, 106, 112, 114, 116, 117, 118, 124, 126, 128, 129, 130, 140, 142, 146, 147, 148, 149, 151, 152, 156, 163, 164, 165, 166, 172, 174, 176, 178, 181 and the O-Train.**

Service Change Highlights

O-Train	Service frequency will be reduced on Sundays and after 9 p.m. Monday to Saturday.
4	Extra service to Carleton University will be suspended for the spring and summer **effective April 23** to coincide with the end of the academic year.
77	Will be revised to operate on Paul Metivier Drive, instead of Chapman Mills, in order to bring service closer to new residents and reduce walking distances. Residents on Chapman Mills and nearby streets will have access to route 77 on Beatrice Drive.
95	In the east end, a new trip will be added departing Trim Park & Ride at 4:25 a.m. to accommodate employees working in the Taylor Creek and Cardinal Creek Business Parks.
129	Extra service from Carson/Montreal to Hurdman in the afternoon peak period will be suspended for the spring and summer **effective April 23** to coincide with the end of the academic year.
171	Will introduce a new trip on Sunday evening south of Marketplace to and from the community of Stonebridge.
245	Will be revised to start and end on Rideau Valley Drive at Century Road. Route 245 will no longer serve Kars and North Gower due to low ridership from these areas that does not meet minimum performance standards. Residents in these communities may wish to use Park & Ride lots located in Manotick at the arena and in Riverside South on Earl Armstrong.

Rack & Roll is Back

Bike racks are installed on over 350 buses, so you can take your bike with you. Most trips on routes **12, 85, 95, 96, 97, 99, 101, 106** and **118** will have buses with a rack, but many other routes will also be equipped. Use the online Travel Planner at octranspo.com to see which trips have bike racks.

Rack & Roll Vélo-bus

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Volcanic ash wreaking havoc with royal birthday celebrations

The airline chaos caused by the volcanic eruption in Iceland complicated travel plans Thursday for a number of European royals planning to travel to Copenhagen to celebrate the 70th birthday of Denmark's Queen Margrethe. Flights have been cancelled in several European countries due to volcanic ash. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Obamas pay almost $2M in taxes

The White House says U.S. President Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle, made $5.5 million last year and paid nearly $1.8 million in federal income tax. The Obamas gave $329,000 to charities. That included $50,000 each to CARE and the United Negro College Fund. The president also donated his $1.4-million Nobel Peace Prize award to 10 charities. The White House said the vast majority of the Obamas' income was from sales of the president's books. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

POLAND Hundreds gathered in grief at Warsaw's airport Thursday for two state ceremonies honouring 35 more victims of the plane crash in Russia, among them the last man who led Poland's government in exile when the country was ruled by communists. A military plane travelled from Russia with the body of Ryszard Kaczorowski, whose casket was draped in the white-and-red Polish flag, and flanked by a saber-bearing honour guard. His widow and daughters, dressed in black, wept at his coffin and kissed it.

CLIMATE Last month was the warmest March on record worldwide, based on records dating back to 1880, U.S. scientists reported Thursday. The average temperature for the month was 13.5 C, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reported. That was 0.77 C above the average over the 20th Century.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scale unseen since 9-11

Volcanic ash virtually shuts down half of Europe's air space

An enormous ash cloud from a remote Icelandic volcano caused the biggest flight disruption since the 2001 U.S. terrorist attacks Thursday as it drifted over northern Europe and stranded travellers on six continents.

Officials said it could take days for the skies to become safe again in one of aviation's most congested areas. The cloud, floating kilometres above Earth and capable of knocking out jet engines, wrecked travel plans for tens of thousands of people, from tourists and business travellers to politicians and royals. They couldn't see the source of their frustration — except indirectly, when the ash created vivid red and lavender sunsets.

PETER MORRISON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A passenger waits at a deserted Belfast International Airport Thursday in Northern Ireland. All flights from the airport were cancelled after air traffic across Britain was disrupted because of ash from a volcanic eruption in Iceland.

Non-emergency flights in Britain were cancelled, and most will stay grounded until at least midday Friday. Authorities in Ireland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Belgium also closed their air space. France shut down 24 airports, including the main hub of Charles de Gaulle in Paris; Germany's Berlin and Hamburg were shut Thursday evening.

Kyla Evans, spokeswoman for air traffic service Eurocontrol, said half of all trans-Atlantic flights were expected to be cancelled Friday.

At London's Heathrow airport, normally one of the world's busiest with more than 1,200 flights and 180,000 travellers a day, passengers stared forlornly at departure boards on which every flight was listed as cancelled. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rescuers fighting elements in China

EARTHQUAKE Rescue teams fought gusty winds and altitude sickness Thursday as survivors faced a second night outside in freezing weather after strong earthquakes left more than 600 dead in a mountainous area of western China. Rescuers, tired from the high winds and thin oxygen, pulled survivors and bodies from the pulverized remains of the town flattened by Wednesday's quake. About 15,000 houses have collapsed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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New York **A tower comes to life**

MARK LENNIHAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Construction cranes work on the rising structure of One World Trade Center in New York on Thursday. When finished, the tower will rise to a height of 541 metres.

Garbage mass found in the Atlantic Ocean

Researchers are warning of a new blight on the ocean: a swirl of confetti-like plastic debris stretching over thousands of square kilometres in a remote expanse of the Atlantic Ocean.

The floating garbage — hard to spot from the surface and spun together by a vortex of currents — was documented by two groups of scientists who trawled the sea between Bermuda and Portugal's mid-Atlantic Azores islands.

The studies describe a soup of micro-particles similar to the so-called Great Pacific Garbage Patch, a phenomenon discovered a decade ago between Hawaii and California that researchers say is likely to exist in other places around the globe.

"We found the great Atlantic garbage patch," said Anna Cummins, who collected plastic samples on a sailing voyage in February.

The debris is harmful for fish, sea mammals — and at the top of the food chain, potentially humans — even though much of the plastic has broken into such tiny pieces they are nearly invisible.

Since there is no realistic way of cleaning the oceans, advocates say the key is to keep more plastic out by raising awareness and, wherever possible, challenging a throwaway culture that uses non-biodegradable materials for disposable products.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Man gives paper own obituary

DEATH An ailing Northern California man delivered his own obituary to a newspaper then hanged himself from a nearby bridge.

El Dorado County sheriff's Lt. Bryan Golmitz says the body of 64-year-old Allan Leo Peters II was found Wednesday hanging from an old bridge, according to The Sacramento Bee newspaper.

The Mountain Democrat newspaper published part of his suicide note with his obituary.

The man wrote that he'd been struggling with emphysema and had trouble breathing. He wrote, "Yes, I have hanged myself (At least I hope I did)."

The suicide note included a $90 US money order, the cost of publishing an obituary, the papers said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

CAR BOMB A car bomb exploded outside a hotel in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar Thursday, injuring at least eight people, while fighting in the north of the country left four German troops dead, officials said. At least two of those injured were in serious condition, said local official Nidah Mohammed.

MURDER SENTENCING A Detroit area father who fatally shot his 15-year-old son after the teen admitted molesting a three-year-old girl has been sentenced to 37 to 80 years in prison. Jamar Pinkney Sr. was convicted April 1 in the Nov. 16 death of Jamar Pinkney Jr.

IPAD BAN Israel has banned all imports of Apple's hottest new product, the iPad, citing concerns that its wireless frequencies are incompatible with national standards. The ban also applies to tourists, who can't bring the device into the country until officials have certified it's compatible.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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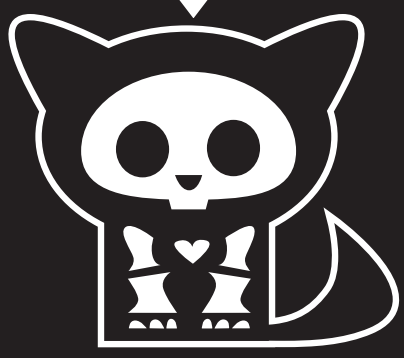

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Pennsylvania boy passed out heroin to classmates: Police

Police say a third-grader in Pennsylvania handed out more than 60 small bags of heroin to his classmates before his teacher discovered them. Police said some of the bags were found empty in a trash can, but there was no evidence the kids had ingested the drugs. They are investigating how the boy got the drugs. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Captured Somali pirates in legal limbo

Somali pirates scooped up by U.S. and European warships are sitting in legal limbo on the high seas. Bringing them to the lawless Somali capital for trial is not an option and Kenya says it won't take any more, though diplomats wonder if the government in Nairobi may be trying to wring more cash from the international community.

Among the more than two-dozen captured pirates being held on international warships are 11 suspected pirates who attacked two American warships this month. They haven't yet been transferred anywhere. Lt. Matt Allen of the Bahrain-based U.S. Fifth Fleet says the American government is "reviewing its options for disposition."

$1M Countries are collectively paying more than $1 million a day for the international navies patrolling the waters off east Africa.

Kenyan officials say pirates are putting an undue strain on the country's congested justice system. But diplomats say only 118 of Kenya's 53,000 prisoners are convicted or suspected pirates.

Government spokesman Alfred Mutua said Thursday that Kenya is still helping anti-piracy efforts by helping to track ransom money, providing a refuelling base and by patrolling its own coastline and said other countries should play their part.

Some navies have taken home for trial pirates who attacked their own ships or citizens. But most are reluctant to take back every suspect due to difficulties transporting them, fears they may claim asylum and jurisdiction issues. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Go after cash to end piracy: U.S. admiral

PENTAGON The international community needs to go after the money being extorted by pirates to try to end what has become a scourge on the seas, said the top U.S. naval officer in Africa and Europe.

Admiral Mark Fitzgerald told a Pentagon news conference Thursday that it is no surprise where the money goes. Some is used to resupply pirates with boats and weapons. But leaders in Kenya tell him rich Somalis also are buying up the real estate around the capital of Nairobi and the African nation's port of Mombasa; Ethiopians report that the same thing is happening in their capital of Addis Ababa, Fitzgerald said.

International warships have been capturing pirates for prosecution, an effort that has been faltering lately. In the end, the international community needs to look at the root cause — a poor and lawless Somalia that can't police its land or its coastal waters. That's not likely to be solved anytime soon, and meanwhile, there are other courses that can be pursued aside from looking at real estate purchases, Fitzgerald said.

"The other thing I think we'd be able to trace is the financiers ... the middlemen," he said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deposed Kyrgyz president departs

CONFLICT The deposed president of Kyrgyzstan left the country for neighbouring Kazakhstan, allaying fears of a civil war in the Central Asian nation, which hosts a key U.S. military base supporting the war in Afghanistan.

The presidents of the United States, Russia and Kazakhstan helped arrange for Kyrgyz President Kurmanbek Bakiyev to leave the country Thursday, Kazakhstan said in its role as the rotating chair of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Opening for a hangman

Zimbabwe prepares want ad

Wanted: A hangman. High school education required. No experience necessary.

Zimbabwe's last executioner retired after carrying out his last execution in 2004. The departure of the hangman, who was said to be struggling with his conscience, leaves about 50 inmates on death row at the maximum security prison outside Harare.

Zimbabwe's government has learned that finding a replacement is not so easy and, according to a prisoners' advocacy group, it has even prepared a want ad to help its search.

Meanwhile, calls for abolition of the death penalty have gained steam.

Earlier this month, inmate Shepherd Mazango won the support of human rights groups to appeal his death sentence and demand the abolition of the death penalty in the Supreme Court, the nation's highest tribunal.

Zimbabwe's last hangman, said to have been a former Zambian police officer, left after his contract expired. A former prison officer said the executioner was always extremely remorseful about his job.

Work for the hangman was spotty. One some days he would execute between two and four prisoners at dawn then months would pass before other hangings were carried out.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHRISTIE ZUKOR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

Ken and Christie Zukor pose outside of their Havre de Grace, Md., home with the four biological siblings that they adopted in 2007 from Russia. The family is trying now to adopt the children's half-sister, 15-year-old Marina, who lives in a Russian orphanage.

U.S. disputes claim Russia has put adoptions on hold

RUSSIA A Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman said Thursday that adoptions of Russian children by U.S. families had been suspended, but other Russian and U.S. officials disputed this.

Spokesman Andrei Nesterenko said during a briefing that new adoptions by Americans are on hold pending a visit in the next few days by a U.S. delegation to reach an accord.

The U.S. hopes to resolve a bitter dispute that broke out last week, when an American woman sent her seven-year-old adopted son back to Russia on a plane by himself. The boy's return — with a note he carried from his adoptive mother saying he had psychological problems — outraged Russian authorities and the public.

The Russia Education and Science Ministry, which oversees international adoptions, said it had no knowledge of an official freeze. And the U.S. State Department said as far as it knew, there was no freeze.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

TURKEY A Turkish tycoon-turned-politician has been convicted of establishing a crime ring, forging official documents and swindling, and sentenced to 23 years in prison. Cem Uzan, who once owned Turkey's second largest mobile telephone company and some banks, did not attend Thursday's trial because he is living in France and seeking asylum there. Earlier, he was convicted on separate swindling charges and sentenced to 3½ years in prison.

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Obama predicts he'll live to see man on Mars
President Barack Obama predicted Thursday his new space-exploration plan would lead Americans beyond the moon and to Mars within his lifetime. "I expect to be around to see it," he declared. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

School conditions 'akin to slavery'

A leading international rights group called on Senegal's government Thursday to clamp down on Islamic schools whose leaders are subjecting tens of thousands of children to forced begging and daily beatings in conditions it says are "akin to slavery."

Powerful religious leaders known as "marabouts" hold enormous political influence in this mostly Muslim West African nation. Parents often send their children to Quranic schools run by marabouts, both because they hope their children will receive a religious education and because they are free.

But some marabouts have turned the schools into an exploitative, unregulated private industry, banking tens of thousands of dollars in annual profits by forcing droves of children as young as four into the streets to beg for change, according to a new report released by New York-based Human Rights Watch. Children who return without enough money are often brutally beaten, the group said.

The tiny boys can often be seen wandering barefoot in the capital, Dakar, in small groups without adult supervision, swarming cars and passers-by. Often dressed in ragged, torn clothes, they beg long after midnight, returning to sleep 30 to a room in abandoned or half-constructed buildings that offer little protection from the elements, Human Rights Watch said.

One of them, 11-year-old Abdou Sow, said he had been sent by his parents in to a Quranic school in Dakar three years ago. He has spent most of his time since begging, and his marabout expects him to bring back at least 250 West African francs per day — about 50 U.S. cents — and "hits us a lot harder when we don't give him enough."

"He has a black whip that he dips into a bucket of water," said a clearly terrified Sow. "Every time he uses it, the blows scar us." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Escape carries risk

- Of the estimated 50,000 child beggars in Senegal, some 1,000 run away each year. Those who are were recaptured are often beaten even harder than before.

Pope alludes to abuse scandal during Mass

VATICAN Pope Benedict XVI broke his recent silence on the clerical abuse scandal Thursday, noting recent attacks on the church and the need for "we Christians" to repent for sins and recognize mistakes.

Benedict made the comments during an off-the-cuff homily at a Mass inside the Vatican for members of the Pontifical Biblical Commission.

Victims of clerical abuse have long demanded that Benedict take more personal responsibility for clerical abuse, charging that the Vatican orchestrated a culture of coverup and secrecy that allowed priests to rape and molest children for decades unchecked.

Those demands have intensified in recent weeks as the Vatican and Benedict himself have been accused of negligence in handling some cases in Europe and the United States.

"I must say, we Christians, even in recent times, have often avoided the word 'repent,' which seemed too tough. But now under attack from the world, which has been telling us about our sins ... we realize that it's necessary to repent, in other words, recognize what is wrong in our lives," Benedict said.

It was Benedict's fullest allusion to the scandal since he sent a letter to the Irish faithful March 20 concerning what Irish-government inquiries have concluded was decades of abuse and church-mandated coverup in the country.

Vatican spokesman the Rev. Federico Lombardi confirmed that Benedict was referring to the scandal. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seattle **Casualty of migration**

MIKE SIEGEL/THE SEATTLE TIMES

A dead gray whale lies on the beach at the Arroyo Beach neighborhood in West Seattle on Thursday. It's reportedly the fifth dead gray whale found this month — four in Puget Sound waters and the fifth near Vancouver. Marine biologists say it's not usual for five to seven whales to die in a migration season as they make their way north to their summer feeding grounds around Alaska.

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Comment

Slow, subdued start for Sens Mile

UrbanCompass

The city's official designation of Elgin Street from Nepean to Gladstone as "Sens Mile" for the playoffs is a harmless bit of civic fantasy. It's still just plain old Elgin Street, and it's not a mile, either, not even close, but to get bogged down in boring old facts is to miss the point.

It's a cheap, easy way for prickly Ottawans to warm up to each other a little and, on the whole, handing over a few blocks to hockey fans for the playoffs is less farcical than last summer's abortive proclamation of Shannon Tweed Day.

Local bars are tarted up for the festivities and pledging donations of $100 each from their nightly proceeds to Roger's House, a Sens-supported charity. All good stuff.

Personally, I'm not feeling the excitement, but I'm a strange sort of Canadian male, more or less indifferent to hockey, and hence of highly suspect manhood, patriotism, etc.

I learned I wasn't completely immune when I found myself among the wild-eyed yobs spilling out onto Elgin Street after our Olympic hockey win over the Americans in 2002, high-fiving motorists through their car windows and generally losing our tiny minds. This was, however, a momentary and isolated lapse of unconcern.

I also used to live just off Elgin, where there's always something to celebrate, whether the playoffs, a long weekend, or, say, Thursday.

So it came as some surprise that after all the hype, Sens Mile during Wednesday night's opener against the Penguins was strictly Sens Mild.

Things got off to a slow start yesterday afternoon. A Mustang convertible decorated with the Sens logo honked its way down Elgin to overwhelming bystander apathy. The crowd had woken up a bit by the time the game was on last night, but not much. The street was hardly in the grips of Sens Fever, perhaps a mild Sens headache or pesky tickle in the throat. Strolling south from Nepean, I was at Somerset before I even saw a Sens jersey. Overall, I heard less "Go Sens!" than "spare change?"

As a non-fan, I seldom welcome the increased competition for pub space on game nights, but there were no worries on that score Wednesday. Some bars were busy, some weren't, and there seemed to be seating available everywhere. The patio at St. Louis Bar and Grill was reasonably lively, with the game blasting from an outdoor screen, but other than that, it looked like nothing so much as a typical Wednesday night on Elgin Street.

Steve Collins lives, writes and walks in Ottawa; ottawaletters@metronews.ca.

Views

What do higher interest rates mean for you?

InBusiness

Does Canada really need higher interest rates to keep inflation in check? Who knows, but we're going to get them anyway.

Along about June, the Bank of Canada will start raising the target for the "overnight rate." That's the rate financial institutions use to lend money to each other. This will send ripples across the interest rate spectrum, from business and consumer loans to mortgage rates and credit card charges. If the Bank of Canada keeps boosting rates, the ripple will start to look more like a wave.

In late March, the big banks anticipated coming rate hikes by boosting posted rates for five-year mortgages.

How will this play out for you? Taken with related economic factors like the value of the Canadian dollar, higher interest rates will hurt more than they help. If you've been planning to buy a house, do it now because mortgage rates will be higher in the second half. Say you could get a $250,000 fixed rate mortgage today at 4.5 per cent, but would have to pay five per cent in August. Over a five-year term, that extra half-point will cost you $6,000 in additional interest. And you'll pay off nearly $1,800 less in principal.

You might also want to buy a new car sooner as well. Automakers have been offering zero per cent financing and attractive lease and maintenance deals. But car companies are still struggling to recover and they know this kind of competition strangles profits. Higher interest rates will boost their operating costs and make them cut back on incentives as soon as they can.

By boosting the value of the Canadian dollar, higher interest rates should make import prices cheaper. But at the retail level, Canadian prices are invariably higher than U.S. levels to start with — nearly seven per cent higher as of late — reflecting our cost structure.

If you really want bargains, cross the U.S. border and buy there.

Just remember one thing. If you do make more consumer purchases, don't run credit card balances. As interest rates rise, credit card rates will follow fast.

Charles Davies is a veteran business writer who has worked for Canadian and international news organizations.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

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International Road Dynamics sees revenue drop

International Road Dynamics Inc. recorded a loss of $181,000 or a penny a share in its first-quarter, reversing earnings of $247,000 in the same 2009 period. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Greenpeace activists, some dressed in business suits and wearing smoke stack hats, "greenwash" BP's Calgary headquarters Thursday with large letters spelling out tarsands in Calgary. The demonstration was staged to bring attention to alleged environmental damage caused by mining oilsands and was held on the same day as the company's annual meeting in London.

BP under fire over oilsands project

British oil giant BP PLC faced down a rebellion from a vocal minority of shareholders Thursday over a controversial oilsands project in Canada and the 40 per cent pay increase granted to the company's chief executive.

A coalition of more than 100 shareholders backed a resolution at the company's annual general meeting calling for a review of its plans to extract oil from the vast oilsands in northeastern Alberta.

It wanted the company to provide more detail on the environmental impact of the project, which critics say will be more harmful to the environment that traditional oil extraction.

But BP, which argues it is crucial in helping meet the world's energy needs over the next 20 years, won the vote with the support of major institutional investors. The company said it would make a final decision on whether to finance the joint venture with Canadian partner Husky Energy Ltd. by the end of the year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rio Tinto may have to buy more power

MINING Rio Tinto expects that a dry winter in the Saguenay region of Quebec will force its aluminum division to increase energy purchases this year from the provincial utility despite flat production levels.

The mining giant said low snow and rain levels that accompanied the warmest winter in 50 years could lead to reduced power generation by its Quebec facilities.

"At this point we're looking at lower levels than usual and it's pretty much the lowest levels we've seen in a little while," spokesman Stefano Bertolli said in an interview.

There were 176 millimetres of precipitation at all its Quebec reservoirs between Dec. 1 and March 31, representing 82 per cent of the normal winter total. It was the driest winter since 2002 and the ninth worst in 57 years.

Temperatures were nearly five degrees warmer than normal at –9.9 C making it the warmest winter since 1957. Bertolli said electricity purchases will depend on rainfall in the coming months. Since 2002, Rio Tinto Alcan has generated on average 2,100 megawatts of electricity annually and purchased 159 MW from Hydro-Quebec.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Chinese thirst means big Prairie barley sales

MALTING Big sales are on tap for Prairie malting barley producers thanks to a growing thirst in China for beer.

The Canadian Wheat Board says it has signed its largest long-term malting barley sales agreement with China.

The deal for at least 500,000 tonnes of malting barley is worth $100 million to Prairie farmers.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Google profit up 37 per cent

Google Inc.'s first-quarter profit rose 37 per cent as more people clicked on higher-priced Internet ads powered by the company's search engine. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Just do your taxes, it's worth it

Many Canadians will be spending the next few weeks wading through paperwork and scouring their homes for months-old receipts, as the April 30 deadline to get their taxes in order looms.

"People hate doing this," said Dennis Tew, chief financial officer at Franklin Templeton Investments Corp.

"They know that they have to go and find all their information. They know that they have to pull it together."

Tew said he's made a habit of getting his own tax return done early each year — mainly because his tax refund arrives that much quicker.

While Gena Katz, executive director of Ernst & Young's tax practice, agrees it's "silly" to put off filing a tax return if the government owes you money, she said it's even worse to miss the deadline when it's the other way around.

"For people who owe money, they really have to file on time or at least pay on time because the penalties are pretty severe for late filing," said Katz.

With two weeks to go until the taxman comes knocking, chronic procrastinators across Canada may be at a loss on where to start.

"All of a sudden you go into this panic because now you're trying to find all of this information," said Cleo Hamel, a senior tax analyst with H&R Block.

The government needs any information relating to income, so first and foremost it's important to round up those T-slips.

Late-filing penalties

- If you fail to pay your 2009 taxes by midnight April 30, the Canada Revenue Agency will charge a five per cent penalty on the balance owing, plus one per cent of the balance for each full month the return is late for up to 12 months.

The next priority is to track down forms and receipts related to any number of available tax credits — charitable donations, children's health programs, childcare, home renovations, tuition, and healthcare costs.

"If the only thing you have is your income information, I know that by the end of it you're not going to be happy with the result. You'll probably owe money or maybe you're not getting as much of a refund," said Hamel.

"At least it would save you from any marks against your file with the CRA by filing on time."

If the receipts for tax deductions turn up after April 30, it's always possible to file them to the CRA for an adjustment later on, she said.

Once the stress of the current tax season passes, it's probably a good time to start thinking about how to do things differently in 2010 tax year.

A system to collect any tax-related papers in one place year round is a must — and it doesn't need to be fancy.

"Everyone laughs when I say 'actually get the shoe box.' And I literally mean 'get the shoe box,'" said Hamel, who said it's not uncommon for people to walk into an H&R Block location carrying a box full of paper.

It's also worthwhile to get a head start on taking steps that will help make next year's tax bill more favourable, said Myron Knodel, a tax and estate planning expert at Investor Group in Winnipeg.

One way is to sort out capital gains or losses on investments by the end of the calendar year. Losses from one year can be applied against another year's realized gains, half of which can be taxable.

There's no point in waiting for the government's notice of assessment to arrive in the mail before contributing to a Registered Retirement Savings Plan, Knodel added.

"With the RRSP, the earlier you can contribute, the longer you're going to be able to tax shelter your investment income."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cleo Hamel is a senior tax analyst with H&R Block.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/JEFF MCINTOSH

Hal Kvisle has led TransCanada Corp. since 2001.

TransCanada CEO to retire

ENERGY Diversified energy giant TransCanada Corp. will soon be under new leadership.

North America's largest natural gas shipper says its chief executive — one of Western Canada's best-known and most successful business leaders — will retire at the end of June.

Hal Kvisle, 57, joined TransCanada in 1999 after years in the oil industry, including a period at legendary Dome Petroleum Ltd., and moved into the top job at the gas pipeline operator in 2001.

During his tenure, he won wide respect in the energy sector and was named Canada's Outstanding CEO of the year in 2008.

Kvisle said Thursday that TransCanada has either achieved or exceeded all goals it set out in the past decade.

In particular, he cited the company's Canadian expansion and the establishment of a gas transmission business in the United States.

Kvisle will be succeeded by current chief operating officer Russ Girling, a former CFO at the Calgary company.

Barry Jackson, TransCanada's chairman, cited Kvisle's "focus, drive and wisdom" for helping the natural gas shipper grow rapidly in the last decade.

TransCanada's growth reflects the continental expansion of the energy business, with growing oil-sands production, a widening pipeline network Canada and the United States and new sources of natural gas in shale rock formations in both countries.

"Our Canadian gas transmission business is expanding to move B.C. shale gas to market," Kvisle said.

"We are working to extend our Canadian system to connect northern gas from Mackenzie and Alaska."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Mutual funds top $600B

INVESTING For the first time since mid-2008, Canada's mutual fund operators had more than $600 billion of assets under their care at the end of March, following another month of net sales to investors.

Net sales — what's left after subtracting redemptions by investors when they cash in their fund units — totalled $1.64 billion last month.

That's down from $3.1 billion in February when Canadians were making contributions to registered retirement plans before the March 1 deadline.

The value of total assets managed by the fund companies that are tracked by the Investment Funds Institute of Canada rose to $618 billion last month, up $120.6 billion from March 2009 at the low-point of the 2008-09 market meltdown. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business in brief

MINING Inter-Citic Minerals Inc., a junior Toronto miner operating in China, is getting a $18.6 million strategic investment from Zijin Mining Group Co. Ltd., China's largest gold producer. The financing will make Zijin the largest shareholder of Inter-Citic. Under an agreement with Zijin and ICBC Credit Suisse Asset Management Co. Ltd., Zijin will buy 16 million shares of Inter-Citic at $1.16 per share in a private placement that will generate $18.56 million for the Canadian miner.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Layoffs show U.S. recovery still shaky

ECONOMY A spike in U.S. unemployment claims Thursday underscored the bumpiness of the economic rebound: Consumers are spending more. Factories are making more. But layoffs have not tapered off as fast as expected.

So can the recovery gather much steam if 17 per cent of working-age Americans remain jobless or underemployed?

Employers have begun to add jobs recently, including 162,000 in March. Yet much stronger job creation is needed to ease the current 9.7 per cent unemployment rate. And if layoffs were to spike and job creation sputter, the recovery could fall back into a "double-dip" recession.

"... There are any number of possible things that could derail [the recovery]."
Ben Bernanke

The odds of that have receded as the economy has strengthened. But it can't be dismissed.

"It looks like we're on a path to moderate recovery and that the risk of a double-dip, while certainly not negligible, it is certainly less than it was a few months ago," Federal Reserve chairman Ben Bernanke told Congress on Wednesday.

"That being said, there are any number of possible things that could derail it."

At the top of Bernanke's risk list: Chronically high unemployment, which he said could cause consumers to spend less.

Economists think unemployment will probably remain above nine per cent by the November midterm elections, making Democratic and Republican incumbents in Congress vulnerable, particularly in hard-hit states. President Barack Obama is summoning top economic advisers for a meeting Friday to talk about creating new jobs, the White House said.

In its report on unemployment claims, the government said the number of newly laid-off people signing up for jobless aid last week surged 24,000 to a seasonally adjusted 484,000. That was the most since late February. Economists had predicted a drop in first-time claims.

One theory is that companies are boosting production and meeting customer demand by squeezing more work from their existing staff.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ScanLife

Dreaded 'Don't Buy' warning from Consumer Reports has Toyota scrambling again.

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Eveland makes history in Blue Jays' win

Dana Eveland threw four scoreless innings to open his second start with the Blue Jays, setting a team record while helping the team to a 7-3 win over the Chicago White Sox on Thursday night. Eveland did not allow a run in his debut last week, and his run of 11 1/3 scoreless innings is the longest any starter has gone at the beginning of their career in Toronto. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports

76ers dump coach

The Philadelphia 76ers have fired coach Eddie Jordan after one season. Team president Ed Stefanski announced the move Thursday. He said the Sixers took an "unacceptable" step backward after two straight seasons in the playoffs. Jordan is finished after a woefully underachieving season that had the Sixers near the bottom of the Eastern Conference. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Element of 'dislike' exists now: Crosby

One game into their Stanley Cup defence, the Pittsburgh Penguins already have been reminded that consistency and determination can be as important as star power in winning a playoff round.

The Ottawa Senators lack players with the offensive skills and post-season portfolios of Sidney Crosby, Evgeni Malkin and Jordan Staal. They do possess a sound game plan, excellent defencemen and a commitment to make an Eastern Conference first-round series that was supposed to be a Penguins walkover into an extended, difficult-to-win round.

Deep down, the Penguins probably expected their true challenges to come in later rounds against Washington and/or New Jersey, teams they didn't defeat once this season. The Senators' surprise 5-4 victory in Game 1 changed all that.

Game 2 on Friday isn't necessarily a must-win game for the Penguins, who came back from 2-0 deficits twice while winning the Stanley Cup last spring. But it's as close as it gets.

"We didn't come in here expecting to win four straight," Crosby said Thursday. "It's going to be a tough series. If anything, (the) last game should motivate us even more. We hadn't played Ottawa for a long time. We have a history with them in the playoffs, and I don't think that the element of not liking them was really there enough. That's definitely there now."

The Senators want to keep doing what they did in Game 1: Make it difficult for the Penguins to get into the offensive zone. Throw a defensive blanket on Crosby with defencemen Anton Volchenkov and Chris Phillips. Create a sense of nervousness among the Penguins — and their fans — that they won't go down easily.

"We know who he is and we know what he's capable of," Senators forward Erik Karlsson said of Crosby, who has two goals in 17 regular season games against Ottawa.

"You just try to take his time and space away and make him do some things from difficult positions. I think we did a great job of that."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Michalek out for rest of playoffs

- Ottawa Senators forward Milan Michalek will miss the rest of the NHL playoffs because of a torn knee ligament that will require surgery. The Senators already were without another of their top six forwards. Michalek had been playing with a brace to protect the partially torn ligament in his left knee. Senators general manager Bryan Murray said the ligament was completely torn during the Senators' 5-4 victory over Pittsburgh on Wednesday night. Michalek needs an operation and won't return until next season.

HARAZ N. GHANBARI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Montreal's Benoit Pouliot teammates Scott Gomez, centre, and Brian Gionta celebrate Gionta's goal during the third period of Thursday's Game 1 against in Washington.

Plekanec scores in OT as Habs take Game 1 from Capitals

(Montreal leads series 1-0)

Canadiens 3 **Capitals** 2 (OT)

NHL Tomas Plekanec scored on a slapshot at 13:19 of overtime as the Montreal Canadiens stole home ice advantage away from the Washington Capitals with a 3-2 win Thursday night.

Mike Cammalleri and Scott Gomez scored in regulation for the Canadiens while Nicklas Backstrom and Joe Corvo replied for the Capitals.

Game 2 of the best-of-seven Eastern Conference quarter-final is Saturday in Washington, where the regular season's top team will try to salvage a split at home before the series shifts to Montreal.

Capitals superstar Alexander Ovechkin was a non-factor, failing to register a single shot on goal for only the second time this season, and getting undressed on the Canadiens tying goal in the third period.

Canadiens goalie Jaroslav Halak shook off a shaky finish to the regular season and shined in only his second career playoff start. He made 39 saves on 41 shots through regulation and stopped all six shots he saw in overtime.

Halak improved to 8-0-1 this year when facing 40 shots or more. In the Capitals net, former Canadien Jose Theodore wasn't nearly as busy but was sharp with 35 stops. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Sports in brief

NFL The Oakland Raiders signed free-agent quarterback Kyle Boller Thursday, adding a former first-rounder to an unsettled quarterback mix. Former No. 1 overall pick JaMarcus Russell lost his job midway through last season because of ineffectiveness and is competing with Bruce Gradkowski to get it back. Charlie Frye started three games last season and is also back.

NBA The Clippers wasted no time making their first off-season change, firing interim head coach Kim Hughes on Thursday in the team's third major shake-up in 2½ months.

CURLING Edmonton's Kevin Martin and Calgary's Cheryl Bernard have won the World Curling Tour Players' Association most valuable player awards. The awards, which are voted on by the players, were to be presented to each skip Thursday during the Grey Power Players' Championship, the season's final Capital One Grand Slam of Curling event.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

SCOREBOARD

NHL PLAYOFFS

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

Montreal 3 Washington 2 (OT)
Buffalo 2 Boston 1
Los Angeles at Vancouver

FRIDAY'S GAMES

OTTAWA at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Nashville at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Detroit at Phoenix, 10 p.m.
Colorado at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

SATURDAY'S GAMES

Boston at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Montreal at Washington, 7 p.m.
Los Angeles at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

BASEBALL

THURSDAY'S AL RESULTS

Toronto 7 Chicago White Sox 3
Cleveland 3 Texas 2
Minnesota 8 Boston 0
L.A. Angels at N.Y. Yankees
Baltimore at Oakland

THURSDAY'S NL RESULTS

Atlanta 6 San Diego 2
Houston 5 St. Louis 1
Milwaukee 8 Chicago Cubs 6
N.Y. Mets 5 Colorado 0
Washington 7 Philadelphia 5
Cincinnati at Florida
Arizona at L.A. Dodgers

Stamkos, Perry, Tavares to represent Canada at world championship

HOCKEY Team Canada is taking shape heading into next month's IIHF World Hockey Championship.

A source said yesterday that general manager Mark Messier has received confirmation from 16 players whose teams didn't qualify for the NHL playoffs, including Rocket Richard co-winner Steven Stamkos of the Tampa Bay Lightning and Canadian Olympian Corey Perry of the Anaheim Ducks.

As expected, Hockey Canada will be sending a young group to Germany for the tournament.

Perry is the lone representative from the Olympic team that won gold in Vancouver. He'll be joined by eight others who are 25 or younger — Stamkos, John Tavares of the New York Islanders, Evander Kane of the Atlanta Thrashers, James Neal of the Dallas Stars, Steve Downie of the Lightning, Kris Russell of the Columbus Blue Jackets, Marc Staal of the New York Rangers and Brent Burns of the Minnesota Wild.

The veterans include 37-year-old forward Ray Whitney of the Carolina Hurricanes and 33-year-old Chris Mason of the St. Louis Blues, the lone goaltender to be named so far.

The other players who have committed are Steve Ott of the Stars, Rich Peverley of the Thrashers, Rene Bourque and Mark Giordano of the Calgary Flames and Francois Beauchemin, the Toronto Maple Leafs defenceman who will be representing Canada for the first time.

Messier has also invited Edmonton Oilers prospect Jordan Eberle to serve as an alternate. He could end up being added to the team's roster, just as Jonathan Toews was in 2007 and Sam Gagner in 2008.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Seven more

- An additional seven players will likely be added after the first round of the playoffs.

Steve Stamkos

Steelers ready to punish Roethlisberger

Steelers president Art Rooney II says the team is ready to discipline Ben Roethlisberger but the punishment will be co-ordinated with the NFL and won't pre-empt any league action. Rooney said Thursday that Roethlisberger told him he is prepared to accept disciplinary action. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bruins can't solve Miller

(Buffalo leads 1-0)

Bruins 1 Sabres 2

Ryan Miller made 38 saves to lead the Buffalo Sabres to a playoff-opening 2-1 victory over the Boston Bruins on Thursday night.

RICK STEWART/GETTY IMAGES

Tyler Ennis of the Buffalo Sabres just misses the net as Tuukka Rask of the Boston Bruins defends in Buffalo on Thursday. The Sabres won 2-1.

Captain Craig Rivet scored the go-ahead goal with a slapshot from the right circle with six minutes left in the second period, and Thomas Vanek also scored in Buffalo's first playoff game in three years. Miller stoped 23 shots in the second period alone, in building on a stellar season in which he won a franchise-best 41 games and backstopped the United States to a silver medal at the Vancouver Games.

Mark Recchi scored for the Bruins, who finished the regular season on a 8-3-1 roll to finish sixth in the Eastern Conference.

Game 2 of the best-of-seven Eastern Conference quarter-final is Saturday in Buffalo.

It was a game of shifting momentum, with the Sabres controlling the tempo and buzzing the net through most of the first period. Buffalo was rewarded by opening the scoring 4:52 in when Vanek snapped in Derek Roy's drop pass on a 2-on-1 rush.

The Bruins responded with a thoroughly dominating second period, in which they outshot Buffalo 20-6 through the first 14 minutes and 24-8 overall.

The 24 shots allowed by the Sabres matched a franchise playoff record, dating to a 3-2 win at Chicago in April 1980.

The trouble for Boston was, it had difficulty beating Miller, and found itself trailing 2-1.

After Recchi, with his 51st career playoff goal, converted a rebound in front to tie it at the 9:30 mark, the Sabres regained the lead less than five minutes later, when Rivet blasted a shot over Tuukka Rask's shoulder.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Commonwealth Games carry pioneering spirit

The Queen's Baton passed through Canada this week on its way to the 19th Commonwealth Games in Delhi, India.

Few took notice of the relay that will take the baton to 72 countries on five continents before reaching Nehru Stadium and the opening ceremony Oct. 3.

That's a shame when you consider the significance of one of the oldest multi-sport gatherings on the face of the earth and what it says about the power of athletics to create understanding between cultures.

"The Games have come to include developing parts of the world hungry to express themselves through the pursuit of sport."

The Commonwealth Games began in 1930 in Hamilton as the British Empire Games. Over the years they have showcased magnificent sporting achievement.

Roger Bannister of England and John Landy of Australia both ran the "Miracle Mile" in less than four minutes in Vancouver in 1954.

The legendary "Kip" Keino and the Kenyan distance runners initially made their mark in Kingston, Jamaica in 1966. The Games first ventured to Asia in 1998 at Kuala Lumpur. There, a 13-year-old diver from Canada, Alexandre Despatie, became the youngest major games champion. In Manchester in 2002, Ian Thorpe of Australia, one of the greatest swimmers of all time, won six gold medals.

More important than the exploits of the sporting stars is the pioneering spirit of the Commonwealth Games. A far cry from the very "British" field day they once were, the Games have come to include developing parts of the world hungry to express themselves through the pursuit of sport.

India's population of 1.17 billion is second largest in the world next to the People's Republic of China. Yet, the upcoming Commonwealth Games represent the largest sporting event ever staged in India's history. There are, of course, issues.

Overcrowding, pollution, poverty and lack of infrastructure are hurdles to overcome. But the same can be said of most countries vis-à-vis sporting spectacles. The important thing being the Commonwealth Games and India are willing to try.

Sport aspires to be unlike politics, religion and economics. It attempts to break down barriers instead of creating them.

Therefore, more power to the Commonwealth Games.

In a year where FIFA is courageous enough to take the World Cup to Africa for the first time, we should all take notice of the path of the Queen's Baton.

Its journey signals the power of sport is reaching more people around the globe than ever before.

Gemini Award winner and author Scott Russell is the Host of CBC Sports Weekend seen Saturday afternoons. A 20-year CBC Sports veteran, he has covered a variety of professional and amateur sports including nine Olympic games and numerous world championships.

Tiger to play at Quail Hollow

GOLF Out of golf for five months until the Masters, Tiger Woods is waiting only two weeks to tee it up again.

Woods announced Thursday he will play the Quail Hollow Championship, which begins April 29.

It will be his first time playing at a tournament where tickets are sold to the general public since his spectacular downfall from a sex scandal.

Woods tied for fourth last week at the Masters, which has the most controlled gallery in golf. Weekly badges are secured months in advance, and fans fear losing them if caught showing poor etiquette.

Woods received warm applause when he teed off in the first round, and the support was steady throughout the week.

The early commitment was a sign that Woods plans to be helpful to the promotion of tournaments.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Visit Metronews.ca/movies to get showtimes, read reviews and watch trailers.

Movies&Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Movies

Kick-Ass good

Pg 26

Enter Kick-Ass, a superhero movie that both mocks and extols the virtues of the movie genre.

Movies

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Saldana follows up Avatar and Star Trek with The Losers.

Music

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Regina's Library Voices says it's scared of pop music.

Television

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What's new about Julianna Margulies 10 years after ER?

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At a glance
The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo ⊕⊕⊕⊕⊕, Kick Ass ⊕⊕⊕⊕½, Death At A Funeral ⊕⊕⊕½

Movies

MOVIES EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

⊕⊕⊕⊕⊕ A CLASSIC; ⊕⊕⊕⊕ EXCELLENT; ⊕⊕⊕ GOOD; ⊕⊕ FAIR; ⊕ POOR

Kick-Ass delivers on its title

Kick-Ass
Director: Matthew Vaughn
Stars: Aaron Johnson, Chloe Moretz, Nicolas Cage
Classification: 18A
Rating: ⊕⊕⊕⊕½

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

Superbad star Christopher Mintz-Plasse dons the cape in Kick-Ass.

On the web
• For trailers, screen times, photos — and to buy tickets — visit metronews.ca/movies

Matthew Vaughn's superhero flick Kick-Ass is an outrageous mix of stylized violence and dark humour that both gently mocks and pays homage to decades of superhero lore.

It's a lovingly R-rated affair that is sure to thrill action movie lovers and costumed hero fans alike. Some will undoubtedly be offended by scenes featuring a pre-teen girl viciously dispatching legions of henchmen, but anyone with a sense of humour and an understanding that movies are make believe should be too busy giggling to notice any such party poopery.

The film follows a boring and anonymous teen who decides to become a crime-fighter known as Kick-Ass. Predictably, he's not very good at it. But a grainy cell phone video makes him an internet sensation, drawing the attention of a local crime boss who wants to take down the costumed vigilante harming his family business.

Of course, that's not Kick-Ass but a scorned cop out for revenge who is played by Nicolas Cage (channeling Adam West) and has turned his 11-year-old daughter into a deadly assassin.

They're called Big Daddy and Hit Girl and (much like Kick-Ass and the rich boy hero Red Mist) they aren't actually superheroes, but damaged people just crazy enough to think it could work.

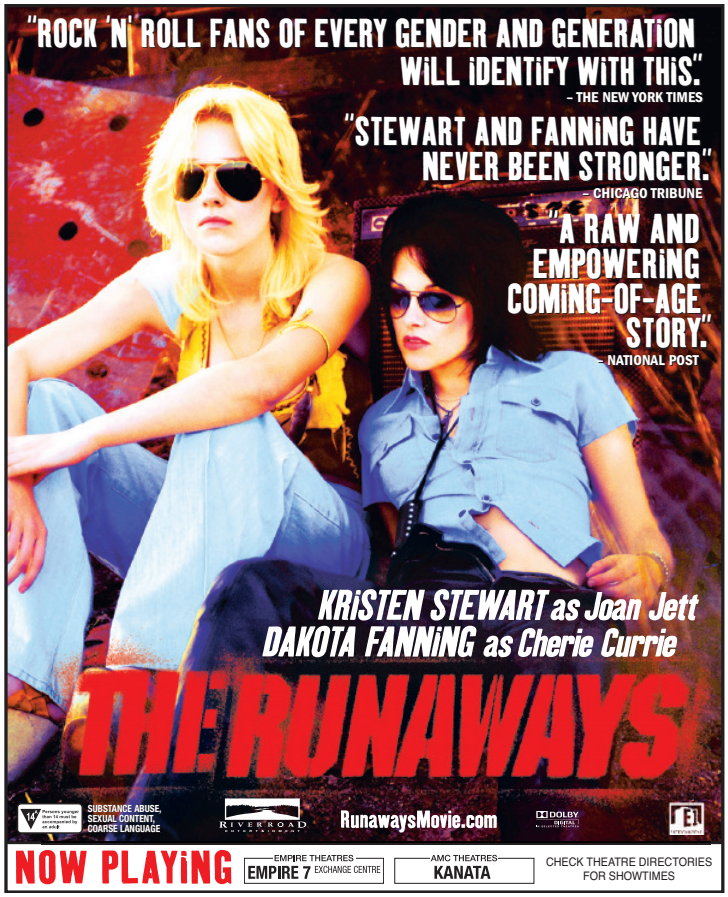
The story is relentlessly entertaining with just enough genre subversion and subtle commentary on new media celebrities to offer a brain behind the colorful explosions.

Films this odd and true to their own warped vision don't come along often and should be celebrated. It's a wish-fulfillment loveletter to fanboy culture that lands enough successful jokes and punches to appeal to a wider crowd as well.

Kick-Ass was clearly designed to be a cult movie, which rarely works as cult films are supposed to be dismissed oddities rediscovered years after theatrical failure.

However, this movie strikes the right balance between humorous piss-take and legitimate thrills to develop that kind of devoted fanbase.

The only thing that could keep it from cult status is the fact that it's good enough to be a legitimate hit with audiences immediately.



Funeral not quite killer comedy

Death At A Funeral
Director: Neil LaBute
Stars: Tracy Morgan, Chris Rock, Martin Lawrence
Classification: 14A
Rating: ⊕⊕⊕½

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

Clockwise for left, Marin Lawrence, Tracy Morgan, Chris Rock and Peter Dinklage get their laughs on in Death At A Funeral.

REVIEW It's never clear why the world needed an American version of Death at a Funeral, Frank Oz's 2007 British comedy, but the result is entertaining all the same.

Collecting an all-star ensemble, the film follows the beleaguered Aaron (Chris Rock) as he tries to bury his recently deceased father while dealing with a number of family issues — not least of which is his resentment of younger brother Ryan (Martin Lawrence), the successful, limelight-hogging author. (Aaron, of course, is an aspiring writer himself, though he hasn't let anyone read his manuscript.)

Transplanting the story from England to Pasadena, Calif., few changes have been made to the plot.

Peter Dinklage even reprises his role as a mysterious guest with information about the deceased he assumes the family would like buried along with him.

While very funny, the film suffers from two distinct problems, the first being its rush to tie up plot lines — or drop them altogether.

After spending most of the film pestering ex-girlfriend Elaine (Zoe Saldana) to take him back, Luke Wilson's character abruptly says he's just going to wait in the car, never to be seen again. Several other long-simmering family issues are resolved in far-to-brief conversations.

The other problem is Chris Rock himself, who seems ill-equipped to carry the film, even with such a huge ensemble around him. Playing the straight man to so much insanity, Rock feels restrained, his stronger comic abilities wasted.

• For a Death At A Funeral trailer, screen times and photos, visit metronews.ca/movies

Maddin's Mayor on NFB website
Canadian filmmaker Guy Maddin's Night Mayor has been added to the National Film Board of Canada's online collection. The film was recently awarded the Short Film Jury Award for Experimental Short at South by Southwest festival. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Reel Time

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

'I like holding the gun'

Avatar star Saldana trigger-happy in The Losers

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

After last year's Avatar and Star Trek, Zoe Saldana continues her streak of guy-friendly films as tough-as-nails Aisha in The Losers.

And as much as she'd like to play something softer some day, the New York native is more than happy to kick a little butt on screen. "Hollywood has made a living out of portraying women to be such canker sores. We just have to be rescued all the time because we're so incompetent," Saldana says.

"I grew up in Queens in the '80s, where women were the caretakers and they were the soldiers. I'm in that phase right now, so until I burn that, then I'll be the damsel in distress. But, right now, I like holding the gun. I like participating in the saving of the day. I think it's really sexy."

The Losers required Saldana to team up with co-star Jeffrey Dean Morgan for both adrenaline-filled fight scenes and a steamy love scene, which she didn't mind at all, she says.

"It helps that Jeffrey was such a gentleman and so respectful because trust me, as a woman, try doing that with a fricking prick," he says.

The Losers opens next Friday

"It's not a good day at work. You're the only one that's naked and you have to act like you're not aware that you're naked. And then, not only that, you have to flip your hair and have an orgasm. So, when you work with a good director and a good actor that makes it seem just like a regular Tuesday, then love scenes are like any other fight scene. They're just awesome."

Being the only woman in the cast, Saldana knew there was a lot of pressure on her.

"You have twice as much work to do because you don't want to be singled out. You're already the only girl. So if you're the one that says, 'I can't do this,' or whatever. It's going to be, 'Oh, my gosh, she's wimping out because she's a girl,'" she says. "I like being around men. I've always felt like I can hold my own."

That male-friendly attitude extended to off-hours activities as well, she admits, especially with the cast and crew on location in Puerto Rico. "I'm a beer-and-wine kind of girl and I like to unwind with the boys," she admits.

Avatar and Star Trek actress Zoe Saldana stars in The Losers.

Efron re-making Cash

Zac Efron is aiming to dabble in cinematic crime — he and Warner Bros. have won the rights to remake Swedish thriller Snabba Cash, according to the Heat Vision Blog. Efron will produce and star in the remake. EMPIREONLINE.COM

Tattoo leaves indelible mark

The Girl With
The Dragon Tattoo

Director: Niels Arden Oplev
Stars: Noomi Race, Michael Nyqvist
Classification: 18A
Rating: ⊕⊕⊕⊕⊕

CHRIS ALEXANDER
for Metro Canada

Noomi Rapace, left, plays tomboy-punk heroine in The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo.

Most contemporary American thrillers are models of economy, forgoing extensive character development in an attention maintaining rush to get the meat of the movie.

But the Swedish film has always been a model of restraint, taking its time to gently, effectively dig deep into the human element before unleashing whatever beast it has hidden up its sleeve.

Which is why the highly touted murder mystery drama The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo comes so highly recommended: It's as intimate and detailed as it is epic and jarring.

Based on the posthumously published novel by Swedish mystery writer Stieg Larsson, director Niels Arden Oplev's powerful and very faithful film adaptation stars Michael Nyqvist as shamed investigative journalist Mikael Blomkvist, who is framed for a crime he didn't commit.

As he prepares for his impending prison sentence, a mysterious tattooed, pierced tomboy punk girl is following him.

She's Lisbeth (Noomi Rapace), the dragon inked girl of the title, a brilliant, streetwise computer hacker and would be detective who, after a wealthy patriarch hires Blomkvist to uncover who in his family murdered his beloved, long dead niece, becomes the scribe's partner, in more ways than one.

But that synopsis barely scratches the surface.

The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo is a master class in how to effectively stage a shocker where every faculty is engaged.

Running over two and a half hours, the entire first hour of the film charts the parallel — yet completely alien — worlds that the two protagonists inhabit.

By the time the black as pitch murder mystery kicks in, and by the time these two somewhat wounded people connect to catch the killer, we are in love with the characters and completely understand their motives, weaknesses and, especially with Lisbeth, their breaking points.

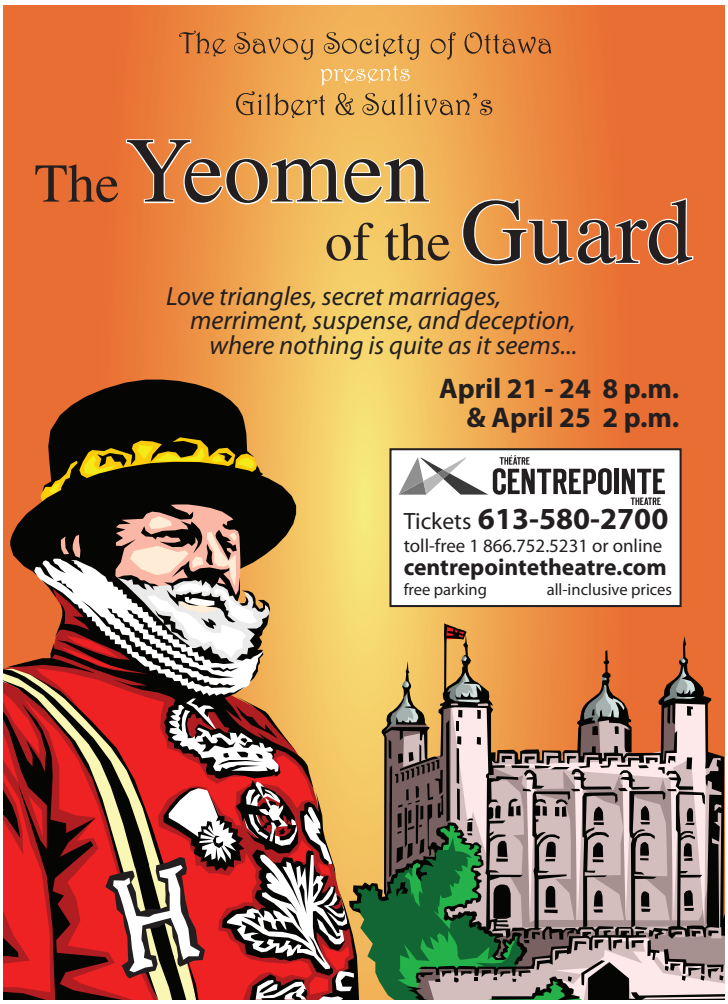
Beautifully shot, exceedingly well acted (Rapace is a virtual force of nature), and unbearably suspenseful, the film has come under fire in some circles for its sporadic bursts of graphic, sexual violence.

Yes, the scenes in question are hard to stomach, but that's their intention.

They're never gratuitous and like every other element at work within The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo, they're absolutely vital to fleshing out the narrative.

See this masterpiece before Hollywood gets their mitts on it for the inevitable remake.

• For a The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo trailer, screen times and photos, visit metronews.ca/movies



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NARRATED BY PIERCE BROSNAN

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IN THEATRES EARTH DAY 4.22.10

French connection in Caribbean

Disney has cast one of France's most in-demand young stars, Astrid Berges-Frisbey, in the key role of Syrena for Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides. The actress plays a mermaid opposite Johnny Depp's Captain Jack Sparrow.

J-Lo's Plan working

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

Jennifer Lopez returns to movie screens with The Back-Up Plan, her first film since since 2006's El Cantante with husband Marc Anthony.

The Back-Up Plan opens next Friday

But don't call it a comeback. "I don't really think of it that way. I was just home, kind of on maternity leave," Lopez insists. "Now, you know, my first movie's coming out since I was fat."

The years Lopez spent away from the camera could be considered research for her latest role as Zoe, a single woman who decides to stop waiting for a man and get pregnant through in vitro fertilization. Two years ago, Lopez gave birth to fraternal twins Emme and Max.

"So many things in this movie was art imitating life for me because I had just gone through the pregnancy," she says. "It was really fresh in my mind."

But aside from the whole pregnancy thing, Lopez didn't necessarily have a lot in common with her character. "Zoe and I are so opposite. She was so comfortable being alone, and I'm so uncomfortable being alone," she says. "In a sense it made me admire her. I loved playing her because I envy people like this. I kind of wish I was like her."

Jennifer Lopez returns to acting after a four-year hiatus in The Back-Up Plan, also starring Alex O'Loughlin.

Looking at Lopez in The Back-Up Plan, it's hard to tell she had a pair of six-month-olds at home, but she insists recovering her famous curves wasn't easy.

"Getting back into shape was challenging, like it is for anyone who has a baby," she admits.

"The first few pounds drop off really fast, and then you're stuck with those last 10 to 20 pounds. And then you've really got to get disciplined." Having a movie to shoot proved to be the perfect motivation. "That was another level of having to not eat as much," she remembers.

"No bread, no sugar. You really start having to think about those things because being on camera, you have a responsibility to look good. And if you don't, you'll hear about it."

Lopez is continuing her don't-call-it-a-comeback comeback with a new album entitled Love? set to be released this summer. It's been a tough road for Love? after Lopez parted ways with Epic Records and signing with Def Jam Records.

"They've heard what I've been working on already, everybody's very happy with it. We just need to finish it," she says.

Oddball comics making the leap

InFocus

Richard Crouse

metronews.ca/infocus

Batman, Superman, Spiderman and Iron Man are the gold standard for comic book characters on the big screen. Between them they have grossed a heroic amount of money, literally adding billions of dollars to box office tallies. They are the bigwigs, the VIPs of the superhero world, but there are dozens of other, lesser known, comic book characters that have made the leap from the page to the stage.

Hit Girl, the ruthless eleven-year-old vigilante played by Chloë Grace Moretz in this weekend's Kick-Ass, might not be a match for Batman's bat-shaped ninja shurikens or his box office pull, but Jeff Moss, the proprietor of Montreal's coolest comic book shop, The 4th Wall, says her story has all the makings of a great movie adaptation.

"For a comic to make a good movie it must have first and foremost good characters," he says. "Also, if the story's not there, it's not going to make a good movie. Next up, it's got to have good visuals and decent "whoa" moments."

The 1999 superhero comedy Mystery Men — based on Flaming Carrot Comics by Bob Burden — works because of the mix of story and offbeat characters. Paul Reubens, for instance, plays The Spleen, a crime fighter who uses turbo flatulence to level his enemies and Leader of the Disco Boys as played by Eddie Izzard neutralizes his adversaries with a can of highly flammable hairspray.

The Mystery Men was turned into a film in 1999.

It doesn't have the all-American heroics of Superman, but Mystery Men has become a cult classic.

Bulletproof Monk, loosely based on Michael Avon Oeming's comic book, delivers on Moss's "whoa" moments. Chow Yun-Fat, hot off of the success of Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon, starred as a Tibetan monk who trains a street kid to protect a sacred scroll. Its combination of martial arts and humour didn't score at the box office, but it makes for a good rental.

While it may seem that every comic ever written has been turned into movies — an IMDB search for based-on-comic-book returned 607 titles — not all necessarily lend themselves to the Hollywood treatment.

"Some of my favourite comics that have yet to be made into movies include Preacher, Transmetropolitan, Nextwave, and Bone," says Moss.

"All of these books have rich characters, and amazing storylines, but the sheer size of them (Bone clocks in at 1300 pages, and Preacher runs nine volumes) would require either a series of movies, or a supreme dumbing down of the stories."

Richard Crouse's Movie Show can be seen every Sunday at 6:30 p.m. on the E! Channel; mrchaos33@hotmail.com.

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3-D dollars from theatres making up for DVD sales slump

FILM BUSINESS Extra revenue being pulled in by 3-D movies at the box office can more than make up for the money lost from falling sales of DVDs, according to the CEO of movie studio DreamWorks Animation SKG Inc.

Jeffrey Katzenberg, one of the biggest proponents of the big-screen format, said Wednesday that the 3-D revolution is reversing a decades-long trend that saw Hollywood studios become more reliant on home videos for their revenue and profit than on theatrical releases.

"Suddenly, the theatrical marketplace has turned in the opposite direction," he said in an interview following his appearance at a conference held by the National Association of Broadcasters in Las Vegas.

His company's forecast for its upcoming sequel Shrek Forever After follows the pattern. "Whatever the decline would be for Shrek when it goes to the home video market will be more than offset by the incremental revenue we'll see from 3-D," he said.

But he implored studios to keep up the quality of 3-D movies. He has criticized Warner Bros. for converting Clash of the Titans into 3-D after seeing the success of "Avatar" in theatres using what he called a "quick and cheap post-production process."

"Suddenly, the theatrical marketplace has turned in the opposite direction."
Dreamworks CEO Jeffrey Katzenberg

Clash was shot using regular 2-D cameras, while Avatar was shot with 3-D cameras and had actors don special suits that allowed their movements and expressions to be recreated in 3-D using computer software. All of DreamWorks' animated movies are also created in 3-D from the start. Some critics say the conversion process leads to images that aren't immersive, but look like they are on separate flat planes.

"I just want us all to be cautious and to err to the side of delivering more than expected, not the minimum level or less than expected," Katzenberg said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Atwell to play female lead in Captain America
The search for the female lead of Captain America has been a flurry of possible names, but now a finalist has been announced: Hayley Atwell. The Brideshead Revisited actress will play Steve Rogers' main girl, Peggy Carter. EMPIREONLINE.COM

Down and out in China

ADAM NAYMAN
for Metro Canada

The idea that cinema represents an escape from reality receives a necessary antidote in the form of Last Train Home, a Canadian documentary that follows three years in the lives of a family of Chinese migrant workers struggling to remain together as the country's infrastructure serves to pull them apart.

Last Train Home opens next Friday

"It's a sad reality of how the country is run," says director Lixin Fan.

"In China, there's a famous saying which is difficult to translate but which means 'make some of the people rich first, and the rest will follow.'

"It's trickle-down economics. So you have people working 14 hours a day at a sewing machine, sending money home to their children, who they never see, and who resent them as a result."

This sense of resentment is embodied in the film by 17-year-old Zhang Quin, whose frustration at seeing her parents only once a year — during their annual 50-hour trek from their workplace to their rural home — boils over in a series of uncomfortably raw confrontations captured at close proximity.

"It's not a common experience for people to have a camera following them around for three years," says Fan. "I told them that the film wasn't just about them, but a topic that's larger than all of them. At the same time, I 'don't do anything that you don't want to do.'"

"You have people working 14 hours a day at a sewing machine, sending money home to their children, who they never see, and who resent them as a result." "
Last Train Home director Lixin Fan

Fan's attempt to maintain an ethical position behind the camera is complemented by his keen directorial eye. Despite having been shot with a single camera under difficult conditions, Last Train Home is visually stunning.

The question is whether such a timely, accomplished documentary will ever screen commercially in China.

"It played at a documentary festival there last year," says Fan.

"The audience was very young, a lot of university students, many of whom had had similar experiences. One boy stood up and told me he had been crying for the entire screening. I hope we can put the film in the Chinese theatre chains, but we would be considered an 'import' film and they only take so many foreign films. So we would be competing with Avatar.'"

Last Train Home explores the lives of Chinese migrant workers.

Movie **morsels**

Alice In Wonderland

REVIEW Tim Burton was born to adapt the surrealist fantasy Alice In Wonderland. The visually inspired filmmaker is known for the twisted imagination and affection for the bizarre needed to translate Lewis Carroll's classic universe to the screen. From a technical standpoint, his film is a triumph. The eye-candy will captivate anyone watching with those new-fangled 3-D glasses. However, there's little going on to stimulate audiences beyond the visual flourishes. Burton regulars Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter take on the Mad Hatter and Red Queen respectively and unsurprisingly steal all or their scenes.

Phil Brown/For Metro Canada

Chloe

REVIEW Despite being a remake of a French film, the new movie from Atom Egoyan bears all the earmarks of the director's work. Continuing his career long examination of sexual taboos and miscommunication he's made a movie that is part sexual Scheherazade, part Single White Female but is also his most straightforward movie in years. Starring Amanda Seyfried as an escort hired by Catherine (Julianne Moore) to test her husband's (Liam Neeson) fidelity, it's a steamy thriller the director calls "an extreme examination of how to re-eroticize a marriage." There is no question that Egoyan is as gifted a filmmaker as we have working in this country, but Chloe, I'm afraid doesn't denote a high-water mark in his filmography.

Richard Crouse/For Metro Canada

The Crazies

REVIEW The Crazies — director Breck Eisner's intense remake of George A. Romero's same named 1973 thriller — is not a zombie film. Sure, it deals with a cataclysmic viral outbreak that turns its hosts into blistering madmen and yes, it carries the weight of Dawn of the Dead guru Romero's name. But the fiends in The Crazies are not dead, nor do they hunger for human flesh. The film casts always magnetic actor Timothy Olyphant (mining his iron jawed lawman character from HBO's Deadwood) as a small town Nebraska Sheriff who gets swept up in the traumatic events following an outbreak of a biochemical virus nicknamed "Trixie" (Romero's original film is also known under the title Code Name: Trixie).

Chris Alexander/For Metro Canada

Date Night

REVIEW I'm not entirely sure where Date Night would be without Tina Fey and Steve Carell. After all, the two television comedians-turned-big screen stars take what is an overly familiar premise, directed by an often critically-aloof filmmaker, and turn it into a thoroughly entertaining evening at the multiplex. The pair play Phil and Claire, a bored, married New Jersey couple who try to spice up their weekly "date night" by spontaneously going to a trendy new restaurant in Manhattan. Finding the establishment booked solid, they take another couple's reservation only to get through the risotto before two corrupt cops with ties to the mafia escort them into an alley and demand a mysterious flash drive. From there, the mistaken marrieds end up on the run, a situation which generates comic moments.

Ned Ehrbar/Metro World News

Hot Tub Time Machine

REVIEW As you might have guessed from the title, Hot Tub Time Machine is a stupid comedy, but fortunately it's a self-aware stupid comedy that mines laughs out of how ridiculous it all is. No movie with that title should work, but this is a surprisingly funny little crowd pleaser. John Cusack, Rob Corddry, and Craig Robinson star as a group of middle-aged friends whose lives peaked in the '80s with a trip to a ski lodge. After a particularly bad week involving new ex-wives, infidelity, and a suicide attempt, they decide to return to the lodge (along with a young tag played by Clark Duke), only to discover a dilapidated town offering as much promise as their unfortunate lives. Fortunately, spilling an illegal energy drink on their hot tub (don't ask) sends them back to an '80s ski comedy complete with bad hair, cheesy music, and evil jocks obsessed with Red Dawn.

Phil Brown/For Metro Canada

How To Train Your Dragon

REVIEW Adapted from Cressida Cowell's children's novels, How To Train Your Dragon tells a simple story about a wimpy, young Viking named Hiccup (Canuck actor Jay Baruchel) who just can't live up to the expectations of his macho father (Gerard Butler). In fact, even when he sets out to slay a wounded dragon and gain his rightful place of honour, he instead makes a fire-breathing friend in the formidable beast. Meticulously crafted, Dragon's dark themes and stunning 3-D animation of battle sequences may even perhaps be a bit frightening to the littlest of ones. In fact, the superfluous amount of over-the-top flying sequences and overload of action upstage a fairly ordinary story.

Steve Gow/For Metro Canada

Shutter island

REVIEW For years, Martin Scorsese has admitted his desire to have worked in old Hollywood; when directors were hired hands who nimbly changed subjects and genres from film to film.

Shutter Island sees the director slipping into this mode, taking on a thriller with all the familiar trappings of the genre. While the movie does provide the requisite suspense and entertainment, Scorsese also adds his distinct touch to the project, making this B-movie veer dangerously close to becoming an A picture.

If he weren't such a talented personal filmmaker, this guy would be one hell of journeyman director.

Shutter Island stars Leonardo DiCaprio in his fourth consecutive collaboration with Scorsese. Despite a wonky accent, it's one of DiCaprio's finest hours as an actor, even though multiple viewings are necessary to appreciate all the levels of his performance.

Phil Brown/For Metro Canada

Screen Times

This week's new releases are highlighted in pink.

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., APR. 15 TO THURS., APR. 22. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

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Power of the Earth: Rare Earth (STC) Fri 1-3 Sat-Sun 11:30-1:30-3:30 Fri 2-4 Sat-Sun 12:30-4:30

CENTRETOWN MOVIES
Dundonald Park, 512 Somerset St. W., 613-232-1534, centretownmovies.org

Listings not available at press time.

COLISEUM OTTAWA
3090 Carling Ave., 613-596-9475

Alice in Wonderland (PG) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:40-6:45-9:20 Mon-Thu 3:40-6:45-9:20
The Bounty Hunter (PG) Fri-Sun 12:45-4:10-6:50 Mon-Wed 4:10-6:50
Clash of the Titans (14A) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:30-7:40-10:05 Mon-Thu 4:30-7:40-10:05
Clash of the Titans 3D (14A) Fri-Sun 1-4-7-9:40 Mon-Thu 4-7-9:40
Date Night (14A) Fri-Sun 2-5-7:45-10:10 Mon-Thu 5-7:45-10:10 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Death At a Funeral (14A) Fri-Sun 1:10-4:50-7:50-10:15 Mon-Thu 4:50-7:50-10:15
Green Zone (14A) Fri-Wed 9:35
Hot Tub Time Machine (18A) Fri-Sun 1:50-4:35-7:15-9:45 Mon-Wed 4:35-7:15-9:45 Thu 4:35
How to Train Your Dragon (PG) Fri-Sun 1:15-4:15-7:20-9:55 Mon-Wed 4:15-7:20-9:55 Thu 4:15-7:20-9:45
How to Train Your Dragon 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:10 Mon-Thu 3:30-6:30-9:10
Kick-Ass (18A) Fri-Sun 12:50-1:40-3:50-4:40-6:40-7:30-9:30-10:20 Mon-Thu 3:50-4:40-6:40-7:30-9:30-10:20
The Last Song (PG) Fri-Sun 1:20-4:20-7:10-9:50 Mon-Thu 4:20-7:10-9:50 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
National Theater Live Habit of Art (STC) Thu 7
Oceans (G) No Passes Thu 5-7:15-9:30

EMPIRE 7 CINEMAS
111 Albert St., 3rd Floor, World Exchange Plaza, 613-233-0209

Date Night (14A) Fri 3:50-6:50-9:45 Sat 12:50-3:50-6:50-9:45 Sun 1-3:55-6:55-9:30 Mon-Thu 3:55-6:55-9:30
Death At a Funeral (14A) Fri 3:45-6:45-9:20 Sat 12:30-3:45-6:45-9:20 Sun 12:55-3:50-6:50-9:25 Mon-Thu 3:50-6:50-9:25
The Ghost Writer (PG) Fri 3:30-6:30-9:30 Sat 12:10-3:30-6:30-9:30 Sun 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:15 Mon-Thu 3:30-6:30-9:15
The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo (18A) Fri 3:15-6:40-10 Sat 12-3:15-6:40-10 Sun 12:30-4-8 Mon-Thu 4-8
Hot Tub Time Machine (18A) Fri 3:55-6:50-9:40 Sat 12:40-3:55-6:50-9:40 Sun 12:50-3:40-6:45-9:10 Mon-Thu 3:40-6:45-9:10

TV superstars Steve Carell and Tina Fey put their comic timing to full use in Date Night.

How to Train Your Dragon (PG) Fri 3:40-6:35-9:10 Sat 12:20-3:40-6:35-9:10 Sun 12:45-3:45-6:40-9 Mon-Thu 3:45-6:40-9
The Runaways (14A) Fri 4-7-9:50 Sat 1-4-7-9:50 Sun 12:40-3:35-6:35-9:20 Mon-Thu 3:35-6:35-9:20

MAYFAIR THEATRE
1074 Bank St., 613-730-3403, mayfair-movie.com

All Dogs Go to Heaven (STC) Sat-Sun 1
Baraka (STC) Thu 10:15
Black Robe (STC) Wed 9:10
La Donation (PG) Fri-Sat 7 Sun 3
The Elephant Man (STC) Sat 3 Sun 9
Fast Times at Ridgemont High (R) Tue 7
Half Baked (14A) Tue 9
Homeless in America (STC) Sat
Neil Young Trunk Show (STC) Fri-Sat 9:15 Sun 7
No Films Showing Today (STC) Mon
Quest for Fire (STC) Wed 7
The Room (STC) Sat 11:15
The Texas Chain Saw Massacre (STC) Fri 11:15

OTTAWA FAMILY CINEMA
710 Broadview Ave., 613-722-8218, familycinema.ca

The Bounty Hunter (PG) Fri 7
No Films Showing Today (STC) Sun-Thu
Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) Sat 2

RAINBOW CINEMAS
St. Laurent Centre, 1200 St. Laurent Blvd., 613-688-0850

Chloe (18A) Fri-Thu 4:40-9:15
Crazy Heart (14A) Fri-Wed 10:30-1:3:55-6:35-8:55 Thu 10:30-3:55-6:35-8:55 Thu 1
Dear John (PG) Fri-Thu 10:10-4:50-9:25
Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) Fri-Thu 10:20-12:50-3:50-6:40
Remember Me (14A) Fri-Thu 10-6:50-9:20
Sherlock Holmes (PG) Fri-Thu 9:05
The Spy Next Door (PG) Fri-Thu 12:10-2:20-4:30
Tooth Fairy (G) Fri-Thu 12:20-2:40-7:10
When in Rome (PG) Fri-Thu 10:40-12:30-2:30-7

RIDEAU CENTRE CINEMAS
50 Rideau St., 613-234-3712

Clash of the Titans (14A) SDDS Digital Fri 4-6:45-9:20 SDDS Digital Sat-Sun 1:15-4-6:45-9:20 SDDS Digital Mon-Thu 4-6:45-9:20
Kick-Ass (18A) Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 3:45-6:30-9:10 Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 1-3:45-6:30-9:10 Dolby Stereo Digital Mon-Thu 3:45-6:30-9:10
The Last Song (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 4:15-7-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 1:30-4:15-7-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital Mon-Thu 4:15-7-9:30

SOUTH KEYS
2214 Bank St., 613-736-1115

Alice in Wonderland (PG) Fri-Thu 12-3:55-7-9:35
The Bounty Hunter (PG) Fri-Wed 10:40-1:30-4:10-6:55-9:30
Clash of the Titans (14A) Fri-Thu 10:55-1:40-4:30-7:30-10
Clash of the Titans 3D (14A) Fri-Thu 10:30-1:05-4-6:50-9:20
Date Night (14A) Fri-Thu 11-1:10-3:20-6:35-9:15
Death At a Funeral (14A) Fri-Thu 11:15-1:50-4:15-6:45-9:25
Diary of a Wimpy Kid (PG) Fri-Wed 10:50-1:20-3:40-6:30-9 Thu 10:50-1:20-3:40-6:30
Hot Tub Time Machine (18A) Fri-Wed 11:10-1:45-4:40-7:25-9:45 Thu 11:10-1:45-4:40-9:45
How to Train Your Dragon (PG) Fri-Thu 10:35-12:55-3:30-6:25-8:55
How to Train Your Dragon 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 11:05-1:35-4:20-7:10-9:40
Kick-Ass (18A) Fri-Thu 10:25-1:15-4:05-7:05-9:55
The Last Song (PG) Fri-Thu 10:45-1:25-4:25-7:15-9:50
National Theater Live Habit of Art (STC) Thu 7
Oceans (G) No Passes Thu 10:15-12:30-2:45-5-7:15-9:30

GATINEAU

CANADIAN MUSEUM OF CIVILIZATION
100 rue Laurier, 819-776-7010

No Films Showing Today (STC) Mon
Requins 3D (STC) Fri-Sat 1-4 Sun 10-1-4 Tue 1-4-7 Wed 1-4 Thu 1-4-7
Sharks 3D (STC) Fri 11-12-2-3-5 Sat 10-11-12-2-3-5 Sun 11-12-2-3-5-6 Tue 11-12-2-3-5-8 Wed 11-12-2-3-5-7-8 Thu 11-12-2-3-5-8
U2 3D (STC) Fri-Sat 7-8:45 Sun 7 Tue-Thu 9

CINÉ-CAMPUS UQO
283 rue St-Jean-Bosco, 819-773-1888

CINÉMA DES GALERIES D'AYLMER
400 boul. Wilfrid-Lavigne, 819-248-2526

Clash of the Titans (STC) Fri-Sun 1-3:30-7-9:30 Mon 7 Tue 7-9:30
Date Night (G) Fri-Sun 1:20-3:40-7:20-9:40 Mon 7:20 Tue 1:20-3:40-7:20-9:40 Wed-Thu 7:20-9:40
How to Train Your Dragon 3D (G) Fri-Sun 1:10-3:10-7:10-9:10 Mon 7:10 Tue 1:10-3:10-7:10-9:10 Wed-Thu 7:10-9:10
Kick-Ass (13+) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:20-6:50-9:20 Mon 6:50 Tue 12:50-3:20-6:50-9:20 Wed-Thu 6:50-9:20
Un Prophète (16+) Tue 1-3:45 Wed-Thu 7

CINÉ-STARZ
1100 boul. Maloney Ouest, 819-568-8000

Alvin et les Chipmunks: La suite (G) Fri-Sun 12-1:35-3:10-4:45 Mon-Thu 12
Avatar (G) Fri-Sun 1-3:45-6:45-9:30 Mon-Thu 12-2:45-5:35-8:25
La fée des dents (G) Fri-Sun 12-1:50-3:35-6 Mon-Thu 12-1:50-5:30
Percy Jackson et les Olypiens: Le Voleur de foudre (G) Fri-Sun 12-2:05-7:15 Mon-Thu 12-4:05
Le Petit Nicolas (STC) Mon-Thu 1:35-5:15
La Rage de Vivre (G) Fri-Sun 6:25-8:25 Mon-Thu 2:05-6:10-8:10
Les Sept Jours du Talion (STC) Fri-Sun 5:20-9:20 Mon-Thu 3:15-7:9
Trop Belle! (13+) Fri-Sun 4:10-7:45-9:35 Mon-Thu 3:40-9:15
Victoria: Les jeunes années d'une reine (G) Mon-Thu 7:20

CINÉ-PARC TEMPLETON DRIVE-IN
1779 boul. Maloney Est, 819-663-0915

Listings not available at press time.

GATINEAU 9
120 boul. de l'Hôpital, 819-568-6070

Alice au pays des merveilles (G) Fri 7:05-9:45 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:30-7:05-9:45 Mon 7:05-9:45 Tue 12:40-3:30-7:05-9:45 Wed 7:05-9:45
Le Chasseur de Primes (G) Fri 7:10-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:20-3:15-7:10-9:50 Mon 7:10-9:50 Tue 12:20-3:15-7:10-9:50 Wed-Thu 7:10-9:50
Le Choc des Titans 3D (STC) Fri 6:30-9 Sat-Sun 12:10-3:10-6:30-9 Mon 6:30-9 Tue 12:10-3:10-6:30-9 Wed-Thu 6:30-9
La Cité (13+) Fri 7:20-9:25 Sat-Sun 1:15-4-7:20-9:25 Mon 7:20-9:25 Tue 1:15-4-7:20-9:25 Wed-Thu 7:20-9:25
La Dernière Chanson (G) Fri 7-9:40 Sat-Sun 1-3:45-7-9:40 Mon 7-9:40 Tue 1-3:45-7-9:40 Wed-Thu 7-9:40
Gainsbourg (G) Fri 6:20-9:10 Sat-Sun 12-3-6:20-9:10 Mon 6:20-9:10 Tue 12-3-6:20-9:10 Wed-Thu 6:20-9:10
Joyeuses Funérailles (G) Fri 6:40-9:05 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:40-6:40-9:05 Mon 6:40-9:05 Tue 12:50-3:40-6:40-9:05 Wed-Thu 6:40-9:05
Kick-Ass (13+) Fri 6:50-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:20-6:50-9:30 Mon 6:50-9:30 Tue 12:30-3:20-6:50-9:30 Wed-Thu 6:50-9:30
Méchante Soirée! (G) Fri 7:15-9:15 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:50-7:15-9:15 Mon 7:15-9:15 Tue 1:10-3:50-7:15-9:15 Wed-Thu 7:15-9:15
Océans (G) No Passes Thu 7-9:10

STARCITÉ HULL
115 boul. du Plateau, 819-770-1090, cinemasfortune.ca

Alice au pays des merveilles (G) Fri-Thu 11:45-2:10-4:35-7:10-9:45
Alice in Wonderland (G) Fri-Thu 11:50-2:30-5:10-7:40-10:20
The Bounty Hunter (G) Fri-Thu 12:35-3-6:35-9:10
Le Chasseur de Primes (G) Fri-Wed 12:45-3:20-6:40-9:15 Thu 3:20-9:15 Thu 12:45
Le Choc des Titans (STC) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:15-6:45-9:25
Clash of the Titans (STC) Fri-Thu 1-3:35-6:55-10:05
Date Night (G) Fri-Thu 12:20-2:40-4:55-7:05-9:20
Death At a Funeral (G) Fri-Wed 12:15-2:45-5:05-7:25-9:50 Thu 2:45-5:05-7:25-9:50 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 12:15
Dragons (G) Fri-Thu 12:10-2:35-5-7:30-10
Hot Tub Time Machine (13+) Fri-Wed 12:05-2:50-5:25-7:45-10:15 Thu 12:05-2:50-10:15
How to Train Your Dragon 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12-2:25-4:50-7:20-9:55
Kick-Ass (13+) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:25-7:15-10:10 Fri-Thu 12:25-3:10-6:50-9:35
The Last Song (G) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:30-7-9:40
Méchante Soirée! (G) Fri-Thu 3:05-5:20-7:35-10 Fri-Thu 12:55
Shutter Island (13+) Fri-Thu 11:55-2:55-6:30-9:30

BARRHAVEN

BARRHAVEN CINEMAS
131 Riocan Dr., 613-825-2463

The Bounty Hunter (PG) Fri 6:30-9:10 Sat-Sun 3:20-6:30-9:10 Mon-Thu 5:20-8
Clash of the Titans (14A) Fri 6:50-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:20-4-6:50-9:30 Mon-Thu 6-8:40 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Date Night (14A) Fri 7:30-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:20-7:30-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:20 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Diary of a Wimpy Kid (PG) Sat-Sun 12:40
Hot Tub Time Machine (18A) Fri 6:40-9:20 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:30-6:40-9:20 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:10
How to Train Your Dragon 3D (PG) Fri 7-9:40 Sat-Sun 1-3:50-7-9:40 Mon-Thu 5-7:40
Kick-Ass (18A) Fri 7:10-10:10 Sat-Sun 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:10 Mon-Thu 5:30-8:30
The Last Song (PG) Fri 7:20-10 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:40-7:20-10 Mon-Thu 5:10-7:50

GLOUCESTER

SILVERCITY
2385 City Park Dr., 613-688-8800

Alice in Wonderland (PG) Wed-Thu 7:40
Alice in Wonderland 3D (PG) Fri-Tue 1-4:30-7:40-10:15 Wed-Thu 1-4:30-10:15
The Bounty Hunter (PG) Fri-Wed 1:25-4:10-6:45-9:20 Thu 1:25-4:10-9:55
Clash of the Titans (14A) Fri-Tue 12:35-3:25-6:15-9:10 Wed 3:25-6:15-9:10 Thu 12:35-3:25-6:15-9:10 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Clash of the Titans 3D (14A) Fri-Wed 1:45-4:25-7:15-10:10 Thu 1:45-4:25
Date Night (14A) Fri-Tue 12:25-1:20-3:4-6:35-7:25-9:15-9:50 Wed 12:25-3:4-6:35-7:25-9:15-9:50 Thu 12:25-12:50-3-6:35-6:50-9:15 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Death At a Funeral (14A) Fri-Thu 1:15-3:55-6:40-9:25
The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo (18A) Fri-Thu 12:30-4:30-8:30
Hot Tub Time Machine (18A) Fri-Wed 1:35-4:35-7:50-10:20 Thu 1:35-4:35-10:20
How to Train Your Dragon (PG) Fri-Thu 3:45
How to Train Your Dragon 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:20-7:35-10:05
How to Train Your Dragon: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:15-7-9:30
Kenny Chesney: Summer in 3D (STC) Wed-Thu 7
Kick-Ass (18A) Fri-Wed 12:40-1:10-3:30-4:20-6:20-7:10-9:10 Thu 12:40-1:10-3:30-4:20-6:20-7:10-9:10
The Last Song (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:35-7:05-9:40
National Theater Live Habit of Art (STC) Thu 7
Oceans (G) No Passes Thu 12:30-2:45-5-7:15-9:30
She's Out of My League (14A) Fri 1:05-6:30-9:35 Sat 6:30-9:35 Sun-Tue 1:05-6:30-9:35 Wed 1:05-9:55 Thu 1:05-6:30-9:35
Shutter Island (14A) Fri-Wed 12:50-3:50-6:50-9:45 Thu 3:50-9:20
When You're Strange (STC) Sat 1

KANATA

KANATA 24
801 Earl Grey Dr., 613-599-1200

Alice in Wonderland (PG) Fri-Sun 11:15-2:15-4:55-7:40-10:20 Mon-Thu 2:15-4:55-7:40-10:20
Avatar (PG) Fri-Sun 10:50-2:30-6:15-9:50 Mon-Thu 2:30-6:15-9:50
The Bounty Hunter (PG) Fri-Sun 11:25-2-4:50-7:45-10:20 Mon-Thu 2-4:50-7:45-10:20
Chloe (18A) Fri-Sun 11:50-2:25-5:05-7:25-10:05 Mon-Thu 2:25-5:05-7:25-10:05
Clash of the Titans (14A) Fri-Sun 11-1:45-4:30-7:35-10:15 Mon-Thu 4:30-7:15-9:45 Fri-Sun 11-1:45-4:30-7:35-10:15 Mon-Thu 4:30-7:15-9:45
Clash of the Titans 3D (14A) Special Engagement Fri-Sun 10:30-1:15-4:10-7:05-9:45 Special Engagement Mon-Tue 2:30-5:7:45-10:15 Special Engagement Wed 2:30-5-10:15 Thu 2:30-5-10:15
Crazy Heart (14A) Fri-Sun 10:40-4:10-9:40 Mon-Wed 4:10-9:40
Date Night (14A) Special Engagement Fri-Sun 11:45-2:20-4:40-7:15-9:35 Mon-Thu 3:05-5:25-8-10:20 Special Engagement Fri-Sun 10:30-12:45-3:05-5:25-8-10:20 Mon-Thu 2:20-4:40-7:15-9:35 Mon-Thu 2:20-4:40-7:15-9:35
Death At a Funeral (14A) Special Engagement Fri-Sun 11:40-12:25-2:15-2:45-4:40-5:10-7:15-7:45-9:40-10:10 Special Engagement Mon-Thu 2:15-2:45-4:40-5:10-7:15-7:45-9:40-10:10
Diary of a Wimpy Kid (PG) Fri-Sun 11:30-1:50-4:15-7-9:20 Mon-Thu 4:15-7-9:20
The Ghost Writer (PG) Fri-Sun 10:35-1:40-4:35-7:35-10:25 Mon-Thu 4:35-7:35-10:25
Hot Tub Time Machine (18A) Fri-Sun 11:25-2:05-4:50-7:20-9:55 Mon-Thu 2:05-4:50-7:20-9:55
How to Train Your Dragon (PG) Fri-Sun 10:50-11:50-1:35-2:35-4:5-5:15-6:45-8-9:15-10:30 Mon-Thu 2:35-4-5:15-6:45-8-9:15-10:30
How to Train Your Dragon 3D (PG) Special Engagement Fri-Sun 11:20-2:05-4:45-7:30-10 Special Engagement Mon-Thu 2:05-4:45-7:30-10
Kenny Chesney: Summer in 3D (STC) Special Engagement Wed-Thu 7:30
Kick-Ass (18A) Special Engagement Fri-Sun 10:30-11-12:30-1:15-1:45-3:30-4-4:30-6:30-7-7:30-9:30-10-10:30 Special Engagement Mon-Thu 2-3:30-4-4:45-6:30-7-7:30-9:30-10-10:30
The Last Song (PG) Fri-Sun 10:45-11:30-1:25-2:10-4:05-4:45-6:40-7:25-9:20-10:05 Mon-Thu 2:10-4:05-4:45-6:40-7:25-9:20-10:05
Oceans (G) Special Engagement Thu 9:30-11:45-2:30-4:45-7-9:15
The Runaways (14A) SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Fri-Sun 11:10-1:55-4:35-7:10-10:05 Mon-Thu 4:35-7:10-10:05
She's Out of My League (14A) Fri-Sun 1:30-7:05 Mon-Wed 7:05
Shutter Island (14A) Fri-Sun 12:35-3:40-7:10-10:15 Mon-Thu 3:40-7:10-10:15

Bestselling author Kitty Kelley's revealing unauthorized biography on Oprah.

The secrets Oprah didn't want you to know

Oprah

A Biography by Kitty Kelley

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YOU CAME, YOU CELEBRATED

AND FOR THIS WE THANK YOU!

Metro Ottawa turned 5 this month and want to thank each one of you for making it the best birthday ever.

Laura Andrews, H.O.P.E., Holly Tarrison, H.O.P.E.; Dylan Griffith, Ottawa Folk Festival; Lissa Constantine, Bird Dog Design

Tim McIntyre, Metro Ottawa; Nick Beaton, The Audio Recording Academy

Erik Michael, N.A.C., James Laing, Banfield-Seguin, Tim Jones, Banfield-Seguin

Katy Sinha, Dharma Development
Mike Higgin, Metro Ottawa

Nisha Wellstein, Mattamy Homes

John Bishop, BB&M Media, Peter O'Leary, Performance Printing, Dara Mottahed, Metro Ottawa

Our guests took home these generously donated gifts:

Olay skin care
Secret Clinical Sport antiperspirant
LÄRABAR
Lord of the Rings Trilogy Blu-ray
SAAB Salon – Spa $25 Gift Certificate
Front + Centre Membership

Top albums on the Billboard 200
1. My World 2.0, Justin Bieber, left; 2. Raymond V Raymond, Usher; 3. Slash, Slash; 4. Need You Now, Lady Antebellum; 5. NOW 33, Various Artists. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Music

The jean machine

Library Voices overcome fear of pop on debut Denim on Denim

Denim on Denim features multi-layered harmonies, rich, peppy instrumentation, chants, cheers and male and female vocals.

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
for Metro Canada

We've all got phobias, but this is a new one: A fear of pop music. That's not a clinical fear, of course, but it's something Michael Dawson, organist and guitarist for Regina's Library Voices, had to overcome.

"We had been terrified of the word pop for years," he says. "It was a little too shunned upon for us to take it and run with it."

But you can't keep a good pop song down, and soon enough Dawson ditched playing in "noisy" bands and embraced his love of the Beach Boys and the Kinks and The New Pornographers.

Dawson, and his seven other bandmates, realized that bubbly pop wasn't something to hide from when they did what every 20-something with a vinyl collection does — listen to old records. "We heard these old tracks that we loved over the years and came to the conclusion that there's so much more to these songs than guitar, bass and vocals. It's so dense. Until we were into our 20s we never stopped to consider a harmonica."

It was then the band was born. Library Voices sounds a lot like The New Pornographers — multi-layered harmonies, rich, peppy instrumentation, chants, cheers and male, female vocals. It's incredibly catchy and while the band still have some work to do before they write an album as brilliant as the Pornos' Mass Romantic, their well crafted power pop tunes should only get better with time.

Despite being relative newcomers on the Canadian music scene, they're already garnering a ton of buzz. In 2008 Spin.com listed them as a band to watch and they've shared stages with the likes of Stars and Plants & Animals. Now, with Denim on Denim, their first full length, out, they're starting to see their audiences grow.

"Attendance is picking up," says Dawson. "We've put in the work — over 100 shows last year — and people are starting to take notice."

The more popular they get, though, the more demands will be placed on the Saskatchewan band. Dawson says they're all in for the long haul and the ones that weren't already left the group. "There were 10 of us," he reveals. "But two parted ways. Everyone understands to put music first."

Still, with eight people it's not easy to coordinate schedules. On one seven-week tour, they had to find another drummer, and other obligations have kept band members away here and there. "It's something that has to be catered to each of us, especially when it's costing money," Dawson explains.

"Who knows what will happen. Things started slowly this year, but they're picking up like crazy."
Michael Dawson

With some label interest — he won't say from who — and more work on the horizon it's a good bet the entire Library Voices crew will stick around to see where the music will take them. "Who knows what will happen," he says. "Things started slowly this year, but they're picking up like crazy."

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Fans around the world mark Record Store Day

SoundCheck
Alan Cross
metronews.ca/soundcheck

Thousands of shops around the world are preparing to mark Record Store Day this Saturday.

On the third Saturday of every April, music geeks celebrate Record Store Day, an annual worldwide event held to remind us of the cultural importance of those places where we've gathered to discover and discuss music.

Nick Hornby's High Fidelity will come to life in no fewer than 107 shops across Canada and thousands more around the world.

As a professional music geek — it says so right on my business card — Record Store Day always makes me wax nostalgic about, well, where I've purchased some of my wax over the years.

Irene Pearson's Furniture Store: Although Winnipeg is just 20 miles from where I grew up, its record stores might as well have been on the other side of the planet. Thankfully, Irene had a small box of the latest Top 40 records on the front counter. All my paper route money disappeared into that box of seven-inch singles.

Sam the Record Man: If you're of a certain age, there's a 99.9 per cent possibility that you bought music at one of Sam Sniderman's stores. I discovered new wave through a Devo 45 playing in a store in the Garden City Shopping Centre.

Sound Exchange: Two blocks away from the University of Winnipeg is a crowded musty shop filled with trade-ins. Not wanting to pay full price for a record by a band I'd never heard on the radio, I was able to check out Joy Division's Unknown Pleasures for two bucks.

Record Peddler: Customers at the long-gone location across from Toronto's Maple Leaf Gardens had their selections brutally critiqued by whoever was manning the cash register. I'm still gutted that I didn't buy an obscure 12-inch EP by a group called 69 Tribe featuring a song called Bikers.

Rough Trade: Almost 10 years ago I asked Nigel, an affable chap behind the counter at the Notting Hill branch, for something new and interesting. He handed me De Stijl from the White Stripes. "They're gonna be mega," he said.

Amoeba Records: This is THE place to go in L.A. Always pay very close attention to the staff picks on the end-of-aisle displays.

For a chance to win special Record Store Day vinyl, follow @AlanCross through @ExploreMusic on Twitter.

The Ongoing History Of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read more at ongoinghistory.com and exploremusic.com

Cancer Bats take cover

BRIAN TOWIE
Metro Canada

Bears, Mayors, Scraps & Bones is the new album from Cancer Bats.

They've got three successful Canadian albums, Juno and Kerrang! award nomination, but what Cancer Bats really needed was an iconic hit everybody knew.

The Toronto metalhead quartet, famous for their terror inducing name and frontman Liam Cormier's screeching vocals, decided to roll the dice by covering the Beastie Boys' classic track Sabotage on their album Bears, Mayors, Scraps & Bones, which dropped earlier this week.

A risky proposition for a band that, while successful domestically, has yet to really blow up on the world stage: Cormier said the band didn't realize they were treading on such hallowed ground until they did it.

"Well, we came upon it a lot more innocently than people might think," he said. "We just started playing it at live shows. It was a really ballsy cover to take on. I realize that more in hindsight. We we're looking for a cover to add to our set, kickstart the party and do something recognizable for people who haven't seen us a whole bunch."

It's gone over so far if the critics are any indication — saying that the cover did the track justice with its adrenaline-filled intensity. Indeed the rest of Bears, Mayors, Scraps & Bones has been called the Bats' best album to date and the one truest to their in-your-face live shows. And when it's your third kick at the can, you pick up a few tricks of the trade to do exactly that.

"We wanted to learn from every single mistake we had made from previous records and just crush this thing," Cormier said. "We wanted the drums to be bigger for starters. And we had a lot of trouble on the last record (Hail Destroyer) getting tones down, but we pulled that off this time around.

"From day one, we were more rehearsed and ready well in advance. And we're super-stoked about what we've done."

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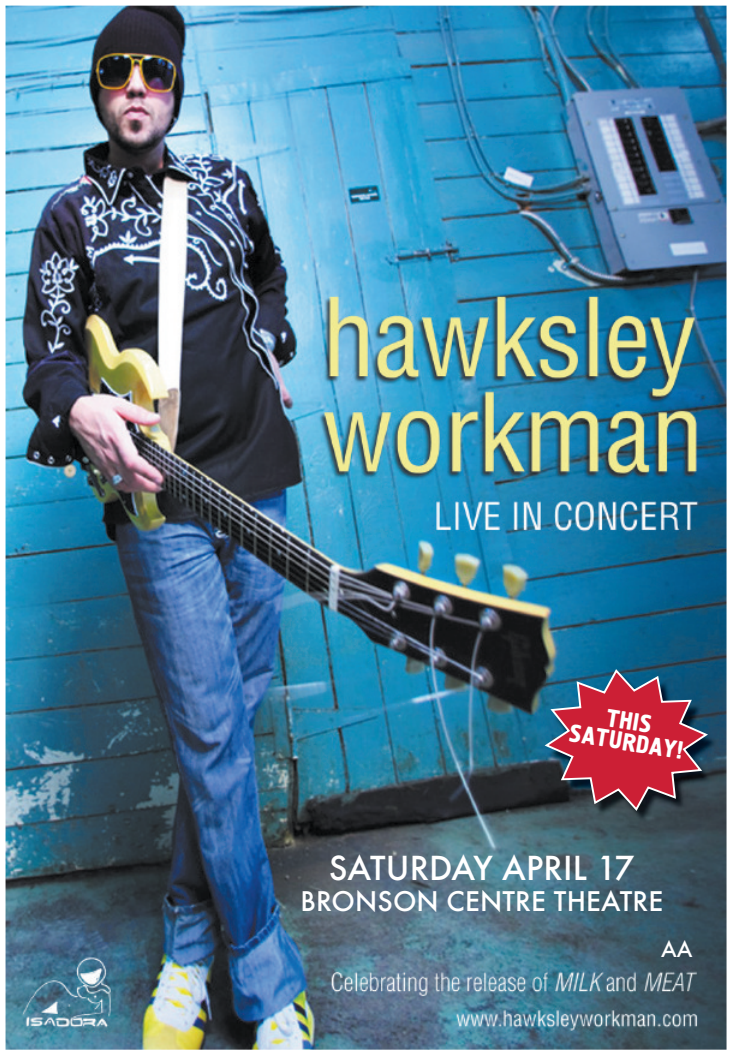

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From Transformers to TV shows

Michael Bay is making his first foray into television. The Transformers director will co-produce One Way Out. It pits ordinary people against each other as they try to keep their pasts hidden. TVGUIDE.COM

Television

The good actress: Margulies

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

Ten years after leaving ER, Julianna Margulies finds herself back on television with another bona fide hit, the legal drama The Good Wife, which earned the actress critical acclaim as well as a Golden Globe and Screen Actors Guild award after only a few episodes had aired.

On the series, Margulies stars as Alicia Florrick, who returns to practicing law after her politician husband (Chris Noth) is embroiled in a sex scandal. Margulies spoke to Metro about infidelity, power and why women are better at dealing with both.

Q How do you relate to what your character is going through?

A The great thing about playing this role is we don't know what is going to happen... Everything she is doing right now is because she has children, and I think she is trying to piece together a family somehow and make sure that her children are safe, but we don't know what is going to happen. I don't know what I would do personally. Every situation is different, and who is to say? You don't know what happens in a bedroom, you know. You are not there. So we are very quick to judge these women. The thing I love is the premise of this show — is there such a thing as forgiveness?

Q Is there?

A I don't know. I think it's tricky. I've had friends whose husbands have absolutely had midlife crises and ended up with the nanny and woke up a year later and said, "I am an idiot. Take me back," and they have and it's worked out. I have friends who say, "Screw you, see you later," and now they are off remarried with a great guy. I can't imagine it happening to me, but I'm a newlywed. But all I know is, God forbid it ever did, I would want to try and do everything I could to try and save my marriage because I believe in the institution of marriage.

Q Why do you think people are so fascinated by these kinds of sex scandals?

A I guess it's a fantasy world to everyone else ... A politician is different than anything else. There's a power you have that's different than anything else.

Q Do you think women deal with power differently?

A Absolutely! We are programmed differently.

Even if you have never been married with children, we still know how to multitask. Someone asked me, "Why is it that women are not having the affairs?" And my answer is, we don't have the time. I'm sure women are having affairs, but if you have a full-time job and you're a mother and a wife and a friend and a sister and a daughter, when on earth are you going to find the time to slip out and have some nookie? I can't imagine having to fit that in.

Q Was the show based on what happened with New York Governor Eliot Spitzer and his wife?

A I would be remiss to say that it's based solely on the Spitzers because it is not. It's an accumulation of what happened to many of these women. I think Eliot Spitzer was very good at his job. Unfortunately, he thought he was untouchable and he did bad things.

Q If he returned to politics, would you vote for him?

A I don't know. I would have to see what was on his agenda before I did that. But for me, personally, when the whole thing happened with Bill Clinton, he was still a great president. I did not care that he was getting blowjobs from women. That had nothing to do with my view of how America was being run. I am more liberal that way.

Left: Julianna Margulies.

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V is for... a very interesting role

NEW SERIES There was a time when playing a priest on TV was a heavenly assignment.

These days, after weeks of headlines dealing with decades of abuse within the Catholic Church, drawing the priest role on TV can be pure hell.

Which is why Joel Gretsch is happy to be playing a noble if complex man of the cloth in the sci-fi drama V.

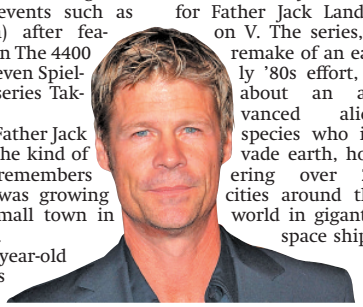
Gretsch is no stranger to sci-fi (or events such as Comic-Con) after feature roles in The 4400 and the Steven Spielberg miniseries Taken.

He says Father Jack Landry is the kind of priest he remembers when he was growing up in a small town in Minnesota.

The 46-year-old remembers attending leadership camps, "and was always around priests playing softball and going to mass and, you know, legitimate things about what it's like to be a priest," he told a small group of international reporters recently in Los Angeles.

He still sees the priesthood as "a very interesting, wonderful, noble thing to do and it's a complex thing to do."

That's certainly the case for Father Jack Landry on V. The series, a remake of an early '80s effort, is about an advanced alien species who invade earth, hovering over 29 cities around the world in gigantic space ships.



They seem to come in peace but, as the series unfolds, it becomes clear that their motives are far more sinister.

Morena Baccarin plays Anna, the beautiful and charismatic leader of the extra-terrestrial visitors, while FBI counter-terrorism agent Erica Evans (Elizabeth Mitchell, also seen on Lost) is among those who suspect these charming visitors have a hidden agenda.

Gretsch's Father Jack is a former U.S. Army chaplain and is one of the first to discover these visitors may not be the benevolent saviours they make themselves out to be. The arrival of these aliens from another world at first leads Landry to a crisis of faith.

"He's a studied guy," Gretsch says of his character.

"To become a priest, you are reading a lot of literature, and you have to understand what was written in the past about God and your relationship to God."

When the aliens show up and start offering cures for many human ailments, it shakes Landry's understanding of a higher power and his own place in the universe.

"How do you equate that with God?" Gretsch asks. "They come here with all the technology to help people and people are looking to them as saviours. It's very upsetting for my character."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

V airs Tuesday nights on ABC

A dog's life can really help a human one

DOCUMENTARY Jennifer Arnold spends her life breeding, training and matching service dogs for people with disabilities or special needs.

It was her own quest for a dog that saw her through her darkest years when she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and her father's death dimmed her chance for independence.

"I remember not wanting to leave the house," she said. "I felt very awkward, scared. It surprised me how frightened I was to be left alone. You feel so vulnerable."

GETTY IMAGES

Neil patrick Harris narrators the doc Through a Dog's Eyes.

Arnold has written a book, Through a Dog's Eyes, that comes out in September.

A PBS documentary based on the book and narrated by Neil Patrick Harris debuts April 21 (check local listings for time).

Harris, star of How I Met Your Mother and a dog owner, said he was "wildly moved" by the documentary about the bond between the service canines and the people they help.

"You can see it in the faces of these dogs," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Television

Sex charge halts Seagal show

Production of a television show featuring reserve deputy and movie star Steven Seagal will be suspended "for the time being" as Seagal faces sexual harassment allegations, a suburban New Orleans sheriff said Wednesday.

Jefferson Parish Sheriff Newell Normand said the continued video recording of the reality series, Steven Seagal Lawman, would be a distraction for the department in light of allegations made against Seagal by a woman in a California civil lawsuit.

Kayden Nguyen, a 23-year-old model, sued Seagal for $1 million on Monday in Los Angeles, alleging he sexually harassed her and engaged in sex trafficking. Her lawsuit claims Seagal hired her as an executive assistant and flew her to Louisiana while he was making the reality series and repeatedly groped and fondled her.

Steven Seagal

She claims she was kept at a house in Lafitte, La., for several days and that Seagal repeatedly fondled and groped her, touching her genitals and breasts without permission. She claims two other women were kept at the house and were used by the actor for sexual purposes.

She also claims Seagal forced her to take illegal prescription medications and that she repeatedly complained to others on Seagal's staff but wasn't allowed to leave the home.

Seagal's attorney, Marty Singer, denied the allegations and said in a statement that Nguyen was fired for illegal drug use.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRIDAY

OT	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
4/16/10	265	353	2	TVO	Britain From Above		Agenda With Steve Paikin		Heartbeat		A. Gregg	Film 101 (N)	Agenda-Paikin
primetime	211	331	3	GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	90210 (HDTV) (N)		Shark Tank		Brothers & Sisters (N)		News Hour
	209	342	6	CHRO	Degrassi: TNG	TMZ (N)	Jamie Oliver's Food		Jamie Oliver's Food		Miami Medical (N)		Comedy Now
	196	311	7	CTV	etalk	Access H.	Ghost Whisperer		Medium (HDTV)		The Bridge (N) (DVS)		CTV News
	208	303	8	CBC	NHL Hockey Ottawa Senators at Pittsburgh Penguins. (HDTV) (Live)						National	NHL Hockey	
	-	360	9	NBC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	*Secrets of the Mountain* (2010, Adventure) Barry Bostwick.				Dateline NBC (N)		News
	-	362	13	CBS	The Insider	Judge Brown	Ghost Whisperer		Medium (HDTV)		Miami Medical (N)		Two/Half Men
	216	395	14	OMN2	Family Guy	The Simpsons	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		News: Cantonese Edition		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
	214	344	15	CITY	Murdoch Mysteries (HDTV)		Trauma "Tunnel Vision"		Murdoch Mysteries (HDTV)		Departures		News
	218	345	18	CHCH	*The Aviator* ★★ (1985, Adventure) Christopher Reeve.				*Spaceballs* ★★ (1987, Comedy) Mel Brooks, John Candy.				News at 11
	-	361	20	ABC	Action News	Entertainment	Jamie Oliver's Food		Jamie Oliver's Food		20/20 (HDTV) (N)		News
	-	365	36	FOX	TMZ (N)	Seinfeld	House "Private Lives"		Kitchen Nightmares		FOX 2 News (N)		News
news	500	500	33	CNN	John King, USA (N)		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV) (N)		
sports	406	417	27	net	MLB Baseball Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim at Toronto Blue Jays. (HDTV) (Live)						Sportsnet Connected		Prime Time
	126	730	28	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Les Grands reportages		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI économie	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	400	280	30	TSN	That's Hockey	NHL Hockey Philadelphia Flyers at New Jersey Devils. (HDTV) (Live)					NHL Hockey: Red Wings at Coyotes		
family	554	544	48	TEL	Batman: Brave	Wolverine	Justice	Star Wars Clo.	Futurama	King of Hill	*Ultimate Avengers 2: Rise of the Panther*		
	557	540	51	FAM	Sonny-Chance	Suite/Deck	*My Favorite Martian* (1999, Comedy)			(9:34) *Nancy Drew* (2007, Mystery)			*With Honors*
	551	542	65	YTV	*New York Minute* ★★ (2004, Comedy) Ashley Olsen.				Things I Hate	That's-Weird	Prank Patrol	Fries That?	Prank Patrol
cable variety	615	520	31	A&E	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal
	628	584	32	SPKE	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: Crime Scene		Ways to Die	Ways to Die	Ways to Die	Ways to Die	MANswers
	616	521	39	SHO	Relic Hunter		*Behind the Wall* (2008, Suspense) Lindy Booth.				Kenny vs.	Pure Pwnage	Misfits
	520	505	42	DIS	Daily Planet (N)		When Egyptians		Man vs. Wild (N)		The Hottest Place on Earth		Daily Planet
	581	566	53	MTV	After Show	After	After	Cribs	Cribs	Movie Night	16 and Pregnant		1 girl 5 gays
	522	506	55	HIS	Ax Men (HDTV)		Nostradamus Effect		*The Talented Mr. Ripley* ★★★ (1999, Drama) Matt Damon.				
	603	561	95	FN	Ricardo	Bitchin	Road Grill	Road Grill	Bobby Flay	Bobby Flay	Diners, Drive	Diner, Drive-In	Ramsay

SATURDAY

OT	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
4/17/10	265	353	2	TVO	Into the Wilderness		*Mask* ★★★ (1985, Biography) Eric Stoltz, Cher. (DVS)				The Interviews	*Rich Kids* ★★ (1979)	
primetime	211	331	3	GTV	16:9-Picture	renegade	*The Perfect Assistant* (2008, Drama) Rachel Hunter.				Love-Death	G-Spot	News Hour
	209	342	6	CHRO	The Road to Avonlea		*Earthstorm* (2006, Science Fiction), Dirk Benedict (DVS)				Stargate Atlantis		Bravo!FACT
	196	311	7	CTV	W5 (N) (DVS)		Flashpoint (DVS)		Law & Order (HDTV)		Spectacle: Elvis		CTV News
	208	303	8	CBC	Curling					Hockey Night	NHL Hockey: Kings at Canucks		
	-	360	9	NBC	Advantage	Wheel-Fortune	The Biggest Loser		Law & Order (HDTV)		Law & Order: SVU		News
	-	362	13	CBS	Paid Program	The Insider	NCIS: Los Angeles		Strikeforce Saturday Night Fights (HDTV) (Live)				CSI: NY
	216	395	14	OMN2	ACCE Awards (N)		*The First 7th Night* (2009, Horror) Gordon Lam, Michelle Ye.				Once Upon a Time in Toronto		ACCE Awards
	214	344	15	CITY	cooking	Most Amazing	Glenn Martin	Out There	*One Way Out* (2002, Suspense) James Belushi. (DVS)				Crusoe
	218	345	18	CHCH	*That Thing You Do!* ★★★ (1996, Comedy-Drama), Liv Tyler				*Fear* ★★ (1996, Suspense) Mark Wahlberg.				News at 11
	-	361	20	ABC	Entertainment Tonight		*Shark Tale* ★★ (2004, Comedy) Voices of Will Smith.				Castle "The Third Man"		News
	-	365	36	FOX	News	Seinfeld	Cops (N)	Cops	America's Most Wanted		FOX2 News at 10:00pm (N)		Wanda Sykes
news	500	500	33	CNN	Fixing America's Schools (N)		Special Investigations		Larry King Live		Newsroom		Invstgtns
sports	406	417	27	net	MLB Baseball Tampa Bay Rays at Boston Red Sox. From Fenway Park in Boston.						Saturday Night Poker		Sportsnet
	126	730	28	RDI	Journal	109 (SC)	Découverte (SC)		Le Téléjournal	Les Grands reportages		Tellement	Le Téléjournal
	400	280	30	TSN	NHL Hockey Montreal Canadiens at Washington Capitals.					SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)			Boxing
family	554	544	48	TEL	*Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium* ★★ (2007, Fantasy)				Futurama	King of Hill	Chicken	Venture Bros.	Moral Orel
	557	540	51	FAM	*A Bug's Life*	Handy Manny	Suite Life	Han. Montana	*Bob the Butler* ★★ (2005, Comedy)			(10:31) *Batman* (1989)	
	551	542	65	YTV	Zeke's Pad	Prank Patrol	Amer. Funniest Home Videos		That's-Weird	Prank Patrol	Survive This	Ghost	Adrenaline
cable variety	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		CSI: Miami
	628	584	32	SPKE	UFC Unleashed (HDTV)		UFC Unleashed (HDTV)		UFC 110: Nogueira vs. Velasquez (HDTV) (N)				
	616	521	39	SHO	ReGenesis		*Storm Cell* (2008, Drama) Mimi Rogers.				*American Gangster* ★★★ (2007)		
	520	505	42	DIS	Cash Cab	Cash Cab	Destroyed	Destroyed	Dirty Jobs		To Be Announced		Ghost Lab (N)
	581	566	53	MTV	MTV Live	Movie Night	After Show	After	Cribs	Cribs	MTV Live	Movie Night	After Show
	522	506	55	HIS	Nostradamus Effect		Cities of the Underworld		*Collateral Damage* ★ (2002, Action) Arnold Schwarzenegger.				
	603	561	95	FN	Glutton	Pitchin' In	100 Mile Challenge		Chopped		Kitchen Nightmares		Hell's Kitchen

SUNDAY

OT	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
4/18/10	265	353	2	TVO	Monarchy "Empire"		Empire of the Word		Foyle's War "Killing Time" (N)			The View From Here	
primetime	211	331	3	GTV	King of Hill	Cleveland Sh	The Simpsons	Family Guy	The Celebrity Apprentice (HDTV) (N)				News Hour
	209	342	6	CHRO	TMZ (N)		*Solar Attack* (2006, Science Fiction) (DVS)				Law & Order (HDTV)		In Fashion
	196	311	7	CTV	Desperate Housewives		The 2010 JUNO Awards (HDTV) (N)				Big Bang Th	Two/Half Men	CTV News
	208	303	8	CBC	NHL Hockey Pittsburgh Penguins at Ottawa Senators.				National	NHL Hockey San Jose Sharks at Colorado Avalanche.			
	-	360	9	NBC	Dateline NBC (N)		Minute to Win It (N)		The Celebrity Apprentice (HDTV) (N)				News
	-	362	13	CBS	60 Minutes (HDTV) (N)		The 45th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards (HDTV) (Live)						CSI: Miami
	216	395	14	OMN2	The Big Wave		Bollywood Boulevard (DVS)		Most Amazing	Most Amazing	Aaram	Arirang Korea	Of Blessings
	214	344	15	CITY	Funniest Home Videos		The 45th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards (HDTV) (Live)						Crusoe
	218	345	18	CHCH	*Rush Hour 2* ★★ (2001, Action) Jackie Chan, Chris Tucker.				*The Italian Job* ★★★ (2003, Crime Drama) Mark Wahlberg.				News at 11
	-	361	20	ABC	Funniest Home Videos		Extreme Makeover: Home		Desperate Housewives		(10:01) Brothers & Sisters		News
	-	365	36	FOX	'Til Death (N)	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	Cleveland Sh	Family Guy	American Dad	FOX2 News at 10:00pm (N)		Sportsworks
news	500	500	33	CNN	Newsroom		Special Investigations		Larry King Live		Newsroom		Invstgtns
sports	406	417	27	net	Poker2Nite	Week/B'ball	MLB Baseball New York Mets at St. Louis Cardinals. From Busch Stadium in St. Louis.						Sportsnet
	126	730	28	RDI	Journal	Humanima	Une heure sur Terre (SC)		Le Téléjournal	Les Coulisses du pouvoir		Regard	Le Téléjournal
	400	280	30	TSN	NHL Hockey: Devils at Flyers			NHL Hockey Nashville Predators at Chicago Blackhawks. (HDTV) (Live)					SportsCentre
family	554	544	48	TEL	Spliced	Total Drama	Stoked	6TEEN	Futurama	King of Hill	Chicken	Futurama	Tripping-Rift
	557	540	51	FAM	Wingin' It (N)	Zoey 101	Suite Life	Han. Montana	*City Slickers* ★★★ (1991, Comedy)			*Grumpy Old Men* (1993)	
	551	542	65	YTV	(6) *Agent Cody Banks* ★★ (2003)			Family Biz	Fries That?	Fries That?	Survive This	Ghost	Adrenaline
cable variety	615	520	31	A&E	Family Jewels		Family Jewels	Family Jewels		Family Jewels	Kirstie Alley	Kirstie Alley	Kirstie Alley
	628	584	32	SPKE	Deadliest Warrior (HDTV)		Deadliest Warrior (HDTV)		Deadliest Warrior (HDTV)		Entourage	Entourage	Entourage
	616	521	39	SHO	Pure Pwnage	Trailer Park	*Odysseus and the Isle of the Mists* (2008, Fantasy)				*Envy* ★ (2004, Comedy) Ben Stiller.		
	520	505	42	DIS	Deadliest Catch		Deadliest Catch		Deadliest Catch		MythBusters		A. Bourdain
	581	566	53	MTV	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	The Challenge: Fresh Meat 2		The Challenge: Fresh Meat 2		1 girl 5 gays
	522	506	55	HIS	Ice Road Truckers (HDTV)		Ancient Discoveries (HDTV)		*The Mummy Returns* ★★ (2001, Adventure) Brendan Fraser.				
	603	561	95	FN	Challenge		Chef Academy		Iron Chef America		Dinner: Impossible		Restaurant

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DeGeneres' vegan diet

Ellen DeGeneres credits her figure to her vegan diet. The 52-year-old television presenter admits her youthful looks and toned physique are thanks to her long-time decision to not eat meat and avoid sugar. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Going Out

Mix of Six

Originals, The Spring Craft Sale

When: Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Where: Lansdowne Park

Designers and artisans from across the country exhibit their amazing unique pieces including fashions for women, men and children, jewelry, accessories, home and garden decor, unique pieces of art and delicious tasty treats.

David Clayton Thomas and the Ottawa Symphony Orchestra

When: Friday, 8 p.m.
Where: Centrepointe Theatre

David Clayton-Thomas, former singer of Blood Sweat & Tears — accompanied by the Ottawa Symphony Orchestra, with 100 musicians specializing in music from a large symphonic repertoire — performs live at the Centrepointe Theatre.

The Comedy of Errors by William Shakespeare

When: Friday, 7:30 p.m. and Saturday 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Where: National Arts Centre

When two sets of identical twins find themselves in the bustling city of Ephesus, a series of mistaken identities lead to wild mishaps, wrongful beatings, theft, madness, and even demonic possession. This modern look at one of Shakespeare's greatest comedies is a celebration of the human heart and all its zany imperfections.

Moulin Rouge – The Ballet

When: Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.
Where: National Arts Centre, Southam Hall

Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet performs Moulin Rouge — The Ballet, which depicts the wild, wicked, turn-of-the-century Paris cabaret era. Choreographed by Jorden Morris.

Brita's free Earth Month event

When: Saturday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Where: George St Plaza South, 55 Byward Market Square

In celebration of Earth Month, Brita will be at By-Ward Market giving away 3,000 Brita pitchers and filters, making it even easier for Canadians to make the switch from bottled water to filtered tap water in a refillable bottle. The event will also feature interactive games and prizes.

Mammoth Book Sale

When: Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Where: Nepean Sportsplex, Hall F

Pick up used books, magazines and audiovisual materials for a low price at this annual sale. Free parking, no admission.

Metro's 7th Heaven: Metro taps what's hot right now

1 Juno Awards

MUSIC Canada's recording industry gathers on The Rock this weekend for the 2010 incarnation of the music awards. The show will feature more than a dozen acts, and include segments shot live on George Street in downtown St. John's, N.L. CTV will air the show and stream it on its website, CTV.ca.

2 Girl With the Dragon Tattoo

MOVIES With the Swedish film opening in Canadian theatres this weekend, Hollywood is busy speculating on who will star in an American-version of the movie, based on a book trilogy by Stieg Larsson. Among the names being thrown around to play the lead role is Kristen Stewart — who is no stranger to trilogies thanks to the Twilight books.

3 The Bedwetter, by Sarah Silverman

BOOK There is a wonderful disclaimer from publisher Harper Collins at the start of Silverman's book: If you are offended by stripping naked in public, or stabbing your boss in the head by a writing implement, then this book may not be for you. If you aren't in any way nauseated, then you should buy it. I guess Silverman knows her demo.

4 Hollywood Hellraisers

POP CULTURE Tiger Woods and Jesse James may be the new bad boys of celeb gossip, but they're nothing compared to some of Hollywood's past hellraisers. In his book, Hollywood Hellraisers — now in paperback — Robert Sellers examines the fast times of Marlon Brando, Dennis Hopper, Warren Beatty and others.

5 Conan O'Brien

TV Late night's dethroned prince is returning to the realm of 11 p.m. this November, after the red-haired host signed a deal with TBS for a new talk show. The news came as O'Brien started his two-month comedy tour across Canada and the U.S. As always, he added a bit of humour to his announcement: "The good news: I will be doing a show on TBS starting in November! The bad news: I'll be playing Rudy on the all new Cosby Show," he Tweeted.

6 Xavier Dolan

AWARDS It's been quite the year for the Quebec filmmaker. On Monday the phenom director of I Killed My Mother (J'ai tué ma mere) received the Claude Jutra Award from the Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television, and now its been announced his second feature, Les amours imaginaries, will be screened at the Cannes Film Festival.

7 Avatar

DVD In time for Earth Day, the record-breaking film with an eco-message is making its DVD debut. If you are one of the few who hasn't seen it in theatres, you can now add to its total gross by buying it on Thursday.

Entertainment in brief

TV The picturesque town of Lunenburg, N.S., is going to be the backdrop for a television series based on the work of horror-writer Stephen King. Lunenburg will fill in for the fictitious Town of Haven, Maine where the inhabitants have no idea they are descendants of cursed ancestry. Thirteen one-hour episodes are planned and the pilot for the series is pulling out all the stops for production in order to attract a large audience. Filming will take place over three days beginning April 20. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cameron lauds decision to delay bids on Amazon dam

Director James Cameron is applauding a Brazilian judge's decision to temporarily halt bidding on a huge hydroelectric dam, yet he warns the fight is not over in what he calls a "real-life Avatar" battle in the Amazon.

A federal judge in Para state on Wednesday delayed the April 20 auction for construction of what would be the world's third-largest hydroelectric project.

He said more time was needed to examine claims that Amazon Indians living near the site weren't consulted about the project and that insufficient environmental protection measures were put in place.

"It's a small victory for us, but I don't expect the battle is over," Cameron told The Associated Press by telephone from the small Amazon city of Altamira, where he was lending support to project opponents.

Government lawyers were analyzing the decision Thursday and will appeal it soon, said a spokeswoman for Brazil's solicitor general's office. She spoke on condition of anonymity due to department policy.

President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva strongly supports construction of the Belo Monte dam, arguing it will help Brazil meet its ever-growing energy needs. Silva on Wednesday also criticized international pressure to stop the dam project.

"No one worries more about taking care of the Amazon and our Indians than we do," Silva said Wednesday in a speech in Sao Paulo.

Silva also said, without mentioning Cameron by name, that people from developed nations should not lecture Brazil on the environment because those countries spent centuries destroying their own forests.

"We don't need those who already destroyed (what they had) to come here and tell us what to do," he said.

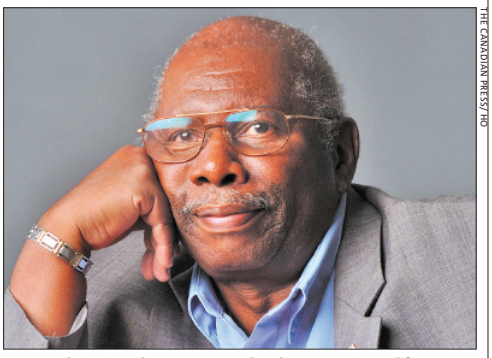
Avatar director James Cameron.

"No one worries more about taking care of the Amazon and our Indians than we do."
Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva

The director of the hit movies Avatar and Titanic spent two days this week visiting Indian villages near the proposed site of the dam on the Xingu River, which feeds the Amazon River. He said he talked with about 50 leaders of various Indian groups, some of whom travelled for days on rivers for a meeting about the dam. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Joneses aim for Junos

There's a good reason 75-year-old Montreal pianist Oliver Jones cherished the chance to release an album with 91-year-old Hank Jones.



THE CANADIAN PRESS/ HO

Montreal pianist Oliver Jones, 75, has been nominated for 10 Juno awards and won two of them. Jones' mentor and neighbour was the legendary Oscar Peterson.

"It's not often that I get the opportunity to play with musicians that are older than me," a laughing Oliver Jones told The Canadian Press in a telephone interview. "It was quite a thrill for me."

Also a thrill? Jones' chance to win a second consecutive Juno Award for traditional jazz album of the year for the resulting collaboration between he and the elder Jones (no relation).

It's Oliver Jones' 10th career Juno nomination, and he's already won two trophies. If he wins this one, he'll want to thank the other Jones — who won't be present at the show — and then another legendary jazz pianist whose presence looms over the album: Oscar Peterson.

Peterson, who died in 2007 at age 82, was Jones' mentor, neighbour and friend with a relationship that spanned more than 70 years. And he served as the partial inspiration behind his latest heralded work.

The album features two powerful renditions of Peterson originals (Blues for Big Scotia and Cakewalk) and Jones' warmhearted tribute to Peterson, written shortly after his death, I Remember OP.

And indeed, there are plenty of memories.

Jones says Peterson lived right around the corner — "about 15 doors away" — when they grew up in Montreal's working-class Saint-Henri neighbourhood. Though Peterson was nine years his senior, Jones became familiar with him from the age of five or six. They attended the same church and Jones listened to Peterson's radio show "religiously."

"He was someone that I saw every day of my life as a youngster, growing up," Jones said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Friendships unite country stars

Call them country music's young guns, a new generation of stars who are bound not only by chart-topping talent but by friendship.

Chances are you've heard one of their songs on the radio recently and they'll be hard to miss Sunday during the Academy of Country Music Awards in Las Vegas after dominating nominations.

Miranda Lambert

The group swirls around a nucleus of Miranda Lambert and Lady Antebellum's Hillary Scott, fast friends whose positive energy draws in others like moths to a flame.

"I think it's cool because it just kind of started all the sudden," Lambert said. "The new generation is starting to really show what we're about and it's cool that we're really fond of each other genuinely. It's really not about competition with us. We're all happy for each other."

The group includes Scott's bandmates, Charles Kelley and Dave Haywood, and Lambert's boyfriend, Blake Shelton. Scott has been friends with Taylor Swift since country's golden girl was 14. Lambert and Carrie Underwood are buds, too.

Add in Luke Bryan, David Nail and Ashley Monroe and you've got a regular posse. So far the friendship has spawned hit songs and a lot of fresh ideas.

MICHAEL BUCKNER/GETTY IMAGES

Lady Antebellum's Hillary Scott and fellow country music star Miranda Lambert are good friends despite competing for awards at the Academy of Country Music Awards. Scott's band has seven nominations, while Lambert has six.

"Everybody's just kind of working for each other and pulling for each other," Shelton said. "That helps a lot. This business is so competitive. When somebody is doing real good and has your back that's one thing, but when everybody's doing real good, kind of shoving each other along, it makes it that much stronger a force."

And a force it is.

Lady A, riding the crossover success of its latest, Need You Now, leads all nominees with seven. Lambert and Underwood are up for six awards and Underwood could become the first woman to win entertainer of the year twice. Swift, the sensation whose multitude of trophies includes entertainer of the year at the Country Music Association Awards, has five nominations.

The Country Music Awards air Sunday night on CBS

Bryan's already won the fan-voted top new solo vocalist of the year, with the help of a hilarious video spot that included some of his buds, and is now up for top new artist. And Nail received his first nomination this year for Red Light in the single record of the year category.

"I'm so proud of my friends," Scott said.

Symbiotic relationships are nothing new in country music. The outlaw movement was a loose confederacy of like-minded friends who encouraged and supported each other. The fast friendship between Reba McEntire and Brooks & Dunn and others helped spur each on to new heights. And there's the Big & Rich crew that includes Gretchen Wilson, among others.

In this latest group, songwriting ideas are often shared freely. Kelley and Haywood have written songs with Shelton and helped Luke Bryan score his first No. 1 hit, Do I. They also teamed with Shelton and Lambert for a song she recorded. And Shelton cut a song penned by Scott and Lambert.

"We all really care about each other and enjoy each other's company and it's not competitive," Scott said. "I think if anything everybody's trying to make and write the best music they possibly can and push each other to be better. It's healthy competition instead of a cutthroat, 'We're better than you' thing. It's really fun." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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His babies received to much medication
Dennis Quaid revealed that his newborn twins nearly died after a medical error at a Los Angeles hospital. In 2007, they were accidentally given an overdose of a blood thinner, Quaid said to the Associated Press. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Say yes to drugs, kids

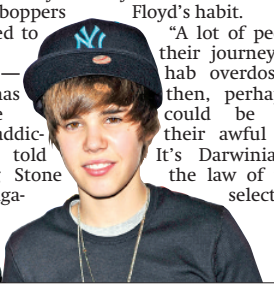
IT'S PART OF RUSSELL'S THEORY OF EVOLUTION Russell Brand thinks heroin would save the music industry, female-first.co.uk reports.

The British comedy actor claims heavy drug use could help the world avoid the "awful music" teen stars such as Justin Bieber are releasing.

"The top of the hit parade would look very different if teenyboppers were exposed to heroin," Brand — who has overcome heroin addiction — told Rolling Stone magazine. "It would weed a lot of them out. I don't think Justin Bieber could handle Syd Barrett from Pink Floyd's habit.

"A lot of people in their journey to rehab overdose, and then, perhaps, we could be spared their awful music. It's Darwinian. It's the law of natural selection."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Decidedly not Gleeful

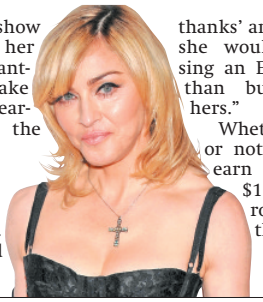
HONESTLY, DOES THIS WOMAN HAVE ANY SENSE OF FUN? While hit TV series Glee will be paying tribute to Madonna next week with an episode devoted to her music, the Material Girl herself won't be tuning in, according to Popeater.

"Madonna doesn't have a TV and has no idea what Glee is," a source says.

"The show did ask her if she wanted to make an appearance in the much-hyped Madonna episode. She said 'no thanks' and, to be honest, she would rather they sing an Elton John song than butcher one of hers."

Whether she watches or not, Madonna will earn a reported $100,000 US in royalties from the episode.

METRO WORLD NEWS



A rehab breakout and a mustache

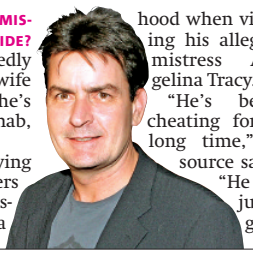
I WONDER IF CHARLIE'S MISTRESS ASKED FOR A RIDE? Charlie Sheen is reportedly stepping out on wife Brooke Mueller while he's supposed to be in rehab, Radar Online reports.

He's been spotted trying to dodge photographers by wearing a fake mustache, sunglasses and a hood when visiting his alleged mistress Angelina Tracy.

"He's been cheating for a long time," a source says. "He just got caught."

A rep for Sheen tried to explain away the disguise to Access Hollywood, saying, "Since Sheen knew he was being followed and how this would look, he wore the mustache in a tongue-in-cheek disguise gesture."

METRO WORLD NEWS



Filling up the space left by a broken heart?

HOPE THIS ISN'T TRUE. THE SMALL-BREASTED LADIES OUT THERE WILL BE DISAPPOINTED After splitting up with Alex Rodriguez, Kate Hudson has been missing in action.

According to Us Weekly, that's because she's been recovering from breast augmentation surgery to enhance her bust. The actress went under the knife in late March, according to the magazine.

"Kate makes jokes about her boobs, but her chest has always been one of her biggest insecurities," a source says.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Oh The Hef is wise in his ways

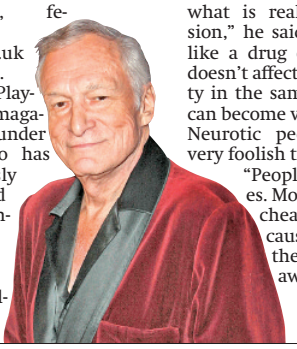
AND THOSE WAYS ARE KNOWING A THING OR TWO ABOUT SEX AND WHAT DRIVES MEN (HINT: SEX) Hugh Hefner doesn't believe in sex addiction, female-first.co.uk reports.

The Playboy magazine founder — who has famously enjoyed relationships with multiple girlfriends at the same time — claims the condition is just a "cop out" excuse for adultery.

"I think 'sex addiction' is a convenient phrase for what is really an obsession," he said. "Sex is not like a drug or alcohol. It doesn't affect the physicality in the same way. But it can become very obsessive. Neurotic people can do very foolish things.

"People make choices. Most people who cheat do it because they think they can get away with it."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Hey, Gossip Girl here ...

AND I HAVE THE BIGGEST NEWS EVER. THERE'S A VAMPIRE SNEAKING AROUND IN NEW YORK Despite a rumoured relationship with Twilight co-star Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson is reportedly spending time with newly single Gossip Girl star Leighton Meester, according to In Touch Weekly.

Pattinson was recently spotted at Meester's New York apartment.

"He ducked out of the building and hopped into a waiting car. He apparently spent the night with Leighton, and didn't want anyone to know," a source says, adding that their alleged affair has included steamy text messages as well.

"She's having a texting romance with him, and is so into it. She talks with Rob almost daily."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Five months and out the door

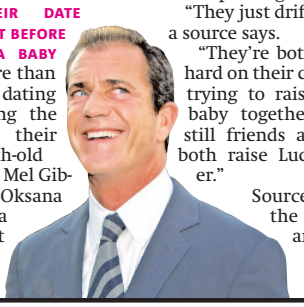
MAYBE THEY SHOULD HAVE GOT THEIR DATE BOOKS OUT BEFORE MAKING A BABY After more than a year of dating and seeing the birth of their five-month-old daughter, Mel Gibson and Oksana Grigorieva have split up, according to People magazine.

"They just drifted apart," a source says.

"They're both working hard on their careers and trying to raise a sweet baby together. They're still friends and they'll both raise Lucia together."

Sources insist the split was amicable.

METRO WORLD NEWS



Follow these celebrities on Twitter...

CelebTweets

JOHN MAYER is asking his Twitter followers for instruction.

@johncmayer I'm being schooled in video rendering right now. This is why Twitter can rock from time to time. Like a humid, throbbing Google.

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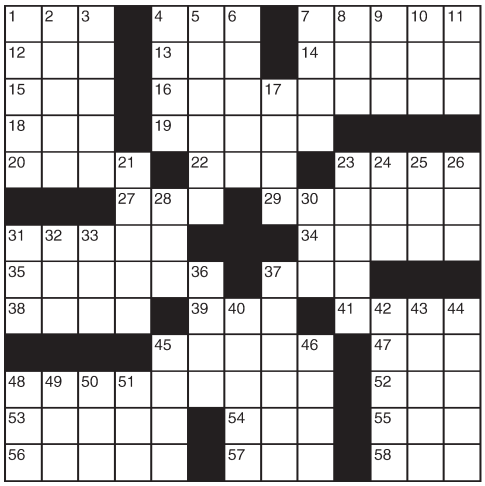

ACROSS

1 "Casablanca" pianist
4 Cleo's slayer
7 Sternward
12 Hearty quaff
13 Pirouette pivot
14 Also-ran
15 Disencumber
16 Snow-covered peak, in song
18 Honest politician?
19 Shimon of Israel
20 Greet the villain
22 Take blades to blades
23 No different
27 Corral
29 An apple inspired him
31 Doozy
34 Chickens (out)
35 Dad, slangily
37 "Of course"
38 Lotion additive
39 First lady
41 Go with the eagles
45 Injures severely
47 Bill's partner
48 Garfield's place
52 Piece of work?
53 Francisco's farewell
54 Quaint stopover
55 Noshed
56 Calendar page, usually
57 Spasm
58 — "King" Cole

DOWN

1 John's running mate
2 Out, of sorts?
3 Persian Empire people
4 On
5 Grave
6 Director Almodóvar
7 Charitable donation
8 Partner of 20-Across
9 Request
10 Retainer
11 Attempt
17 Stitched
21 Foam
23 Reuben ingredient
24 $ dispenser
25 Swabbie's prop
26 Type measures
28 Hellenic H
30 Lamb's dam
31 Feathery accessory
32 Right angle
33 Commotion
36 Approach
37 Aden denizen
40 Drop in on
42 Atlantic, e.g.
43 Heart line?
44 Thesaurus compiler
45 Netting
46 Lip- —
48 "Miss Saigon" locale
49 Maestro de Waart
50 Triumph
51 Make marginalia

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

7				6		3	2	5
					7			8
		1		5	9	6		
2				9	3	5		
		6	4	1				3
		2	5	4		8		
8			9					
9	6	4		2				1

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

O	L	D	■	W	O	V	E	■	A	M	I	S
D	Y	E	■	A	B	E	T	■	S	O	R	E
D	E	M	O	L	I	S	H	■	H	O	A	X
■	■	O	W	L	■	T	Y	R	A	N	N	Y
E	M	C	E	E	S	■	L	O	M	■	■	■
F	I	R	■	T	O	M	■	B	E	D	E	W
T	R	A	P	■	B	O	W	■	D	E	M	I
S	E	T	U	P	■	P	A	T	■	M	I	T
■	■	■	D	O	C	■	R	E	S	O	R	T
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E	T	U	I	■	D	E	M	O	N	I	Z	E
E	A	R	N	■	A	G	A	R	■	O	E	R
F	L	A	G	■	R	O	T	S	■	N	E	G

6	2	4	3	9	1	8	7	5
9	1	3	8	7	5	6	4	2
5	8	7	4	6	2	1	9	3
2	9	8	7	4	6	5	3	1
4	5	6	9	1	3	2	8	7
3	7	1	5	2	8	4	6	9
1	3	5	6	8	9	7	2	4
7	6	9	2	5	4	3	1	8
8	4	2	1	3	7	9	5	6

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

Turkey Kebabs with Fennel and Red Pepper Relish

INGREDIENTS:

1 lb (500 g) boneless skinless turkey breasts
3 garlic cloves, chopped
1 1/2 tbsp (20 m') lemon juice
2 tbsp (25 ml) dry white wine
1 tbsp (15 ml) chopped fresh sage, or 2 tsp (10 ml) dried sage, crumbled
1 tbsp (15 ml) chopped fresh rosemary
1 1/2 tsp (7 ml) fresh thyme leaves, or 1/2 tsp (2 ml) dried thyme
1 tsp (5 ml) fennel seeds, lightly crushed
2 1/2 tbsp (40 ml) extra-virgin olive oil
1 red pepper, seeded and finely diced
1 fennel bulb, finely diced
1 tbsp (15 ml) tapenade, or 10 black kalamata olives, pitted and finely diced
8 shallots or pearl onions
Salt and fresh-ground black pepper

METHOD

1. Cut turkey into 24 pieces, each about 2 x 3/4 in. (5 x 2 cm). Combine turkey pieces with 2 garlic cloves, 1 tbsp (15 ml) lemon juice, wine, sage, rosemary, thyme, fennel seeds, 2 tbsp (25 ml) olive oil and salt-and-pepper seasoning. Toss turkey pieces to coat with herb mixture. Leave to marinate at least 10 minutes.
2. Meanwhile, make relish. Put red pepper, fennel, tapenade or diced olives, remaining garlic, 1/2 tbsp (7 ml) lemon juice and 1/2 tbsp (7 ml) olive oil in medium bowl and stir. Add salt and pepper to taste; set aside.
3. Preheat broiler to high or light barbecue. Thread marinated turkey pieces onto skewers. Add one shallot or pearl onion to each.
4. Broil or barbecue kebabs, turning over and basting with marinade, 15 minutes or until turkey is cooked through and lightly charred in spots. Serve kebabs hot with pepper relish.

SERVES 4

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For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

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ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
You are determined to change your life for the better, but don't try to change everything at once. Too much effort could do more harm than good.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
You may find it more difficult than usual to control your desires today but you need to be aware that if you go too far you could burn yourself out.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Stand outside yourself and see your problems for what they really are. In the greater scheme of things they hardly matter at all.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
It may seem as if a loved one is withholding their affection but they just think you want to be left alone.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Believe it or not, everything that happens in your life takes place at just the right time. So ask yourself: why are certain things happening right now?

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
The mind is a powerful tool and if you tell yourself that a task is going to be unpleasant you will create the conditions that make it unpleasant.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
You may be convinced that a certain viewpoint is right but how do you convince others, especially when the evidence seems to point in a different direction?

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Scorpio is ruled by both Pluto and Mars, planets that don't take prisoners, and you will be noticeably more assertive over the next 24 hours.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
You are right to be so positive and optimistic, but there is still a lot of ground to cover between here and the place you want to be.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
You must expect some rather sharp criticism today from people who envy your abilities. Don't get involved in a war of words.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
It may seem as if you have gone as far as you can go with a project, but don't give up on it yet. Something will happen soon that reignites your enthusiasm.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
You may feel that some kind of drastic action is called for but the planets urge you to resist the temptation to go over the top.

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